

St. John Vianney Pastoral Council Minutes

October 22, 2018

Members Present: Fr. Edwin Kornath – Pastor, Fr. Nathaniel Miniatt – Associate Pastor, Randy Freeman - Trustee-Treasurer, Robert Scott – Trustee-Secretary, Kim Prudlow – Chair, Betsy Wellenstein – Vice Chair, Karen Coon – Secretary & Formation Committee Liaison, Doug Wildes – Worship Committee Liaison & Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Rep., Andy Stith – Finance Council Liaison, Gregory Van Winkle – Finance Council Liaison

Members Absent: Duane McAllister – Stewardship Committee Liaison, JoAnn Cekanor – School Committee Liaison & Waukesha East Deanery Rep., Kathy Barutha – Human Concerns Liaison & Waukesha East Deanery Rep.,

Guests: Barb Vite - Director of Parish Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Brian Shimon - Principal, St. John Vianney School, Robb Lied – Director of Administrative Services

Call to Order: The St. John Vianney (SJV) Pastoral Council (PC) meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m., with faith sharing.

Presentation by Barb Vite, Director of Parish Stewardship, Archdiocese of Milwaukee

With the addition of the Director of Stewardship and Communication position, Father Ed and Angela Bravata, who now holds the position, decided it would be a good time to reevaluate our stewardship process and goals. With that in mind, Barb Vite, Archdiocese Director of Parish Stewardship, was contacted regarding resources offered to parishes in this regard. One resource offered is the Parish Stewardship Assessment, and St. John Vianney will undergo that assessment on February 12, 2019.

Parish Stewardship Assessment is a process whereby the current status of parish life with respect to stewardship is assessed by the Pastoral Council members, Parish trustees, Finance Council members, and Standing Committee members. The Director of Parish Stewardship leads this 90-minute session and guides all in attendance in giving input reflecting on seven areas of parish life as they relate to stewardship. The results are then tabulated in the Archdiocesan Development office and returned to the Pastor, Pastoral Council, and Stewardship Committee along with recommended action steps in each area.

After review of the recommendations and suggested preliminary plan, parish leaders will tailor strategies for improving all aspects of stewardship (time, talent and treasure) based upon parish resources, personality and history. The result is a “roadmap” of action steps, delegation of responsibilities, and assessment guidelines designed to reinvigorate stewardship throughout the parish. The Archdiocesan Parish Stewardship Office is available to assist as requested throughout the process.

Presentation by Brian Shimon, St. John Vianney School Principal

Brian Shimon provided background and information regarding a proposal to add a K3 program to the SJV school.

SJV is currently a K4 – 8 school, and in the 2017-2018 school year added a full day K4 program. The hope in adding that program was to introduce families and students at an early age to the faith-

based learning offered at SJV and create a bond between these families and our school community. The goals in adding a K3 program would be to provide a needed service to our families, while allowing for more time in which to strengthen the bond and improve student retention. Catholic schools with a K3 program were contacted and all reported close to a 100% retention rate of K3 students transitioning into their K4 program the following year.

This proposal was initially researched and presented to Fr. Knippel last year, and after lengthy discussions, Fr. Ken decided that the time was not right for SJV to add a K3 program. In assessing the current status of enrollment and space considerations, the decision was made to revisit the proposal and to bring it to Pastoral Council for consideration.

Principal Shimon presented the details of the proposed program, along with the financial considerations, and asked for further questions and direction from PC. After a lengthy discussion focusing on the costs of the program, both to the families and to the parish, PC asked Principal Shimon and Robb Lied, Director of Administrative Services to gather more information regarding the cost of the program as it will impact the overall parish contribution to the school. Additionally, PC asked Principal Shimon to provide further information regarding the application of the multi-student discount to K3 families, a comparison to standard day care costs for 3-year olds, the possibility of a half-day option, an assessment of the rate of tuition to charge in comparison to surrounding parishes, and the feasibility of adding the program for the 2019/2020 school year, with consideration of the fact that enrollment for the 2019/2020 school year begins on November 1, 2018.

Pastoral Council and Finance Council will consider the proposal again when the above information has been gathered.

Vice Chair's Report: Strategic Plan Update – All Standing Committees have completed their updates and Betsy hopes to have the final draft out to everyone soon.

Family Faith Formation Program – Some members of Pastoral Council have received some negative feedback from participants in the program, so Betsy and Karen agreed to conduct an informal assessment of the program after three sessions of its first full year of implementation.

The objectives of the Family Formation program are difficult to quantify this early in the transition. Established objectives that were gleaned from research results of 50 parishes that completed the transition to family formation include:

1. Stronger families
2. Greater sense of community
3. Increased adult formation
4. Motivated learners
5. A safe learning environment

After three sessions, it is agreed that there is a building sense of community with each session. Just by observing families sitting down to share a meal and talking with each other and with other families is encouraging. Our facilities and requirement for catechists to take the "Safeguarding God's Family" course provide a safe learning environment for all. Session content has had a formational element.

After discussions with Parish Staff, Formation Committee and several current catechists, a set of suggestions to improve certain aspects of the program logistics were formulated and will be presented to Parish Staff. Additionally, the creation of an Advisory Board was discussed and agreed upon with Staff and the Formation Committee. Further discussions to follow as to the makeup of the Advisory Board, and the timing of implementation. Betsy and Karen will continue with discussions with parties involved.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Kornath provided an update on the Staff attendance at the Amazing Parish Conference. The conference is run by an independent organization headquartered in Colorado and is an international event. This year's event was held in Milwaukee, and Archbishop ListECKI encouraged all the parishes in the Archdiocese to participate, and 100% of parishes sent representatives. Parishes were to send a leadership team, which is a subset of the larger staff, collectively committed to helping the pastor make the parish amazing and bring more people to Christ and his Church. The conference had 1200 participants.

The theme of the conference presentations was that parishes are to focus their efforts on the mission of making disciples over the maintenance of the status quo. Attendees were given practical advice on how to create a more proactive evangelization effort within the parish. Parishes are to worry less about the myth of "we can't lose our members" and focus more on improving the experience of those members who are committed to the parish. Parishes are encouraged to rely on prayer and the sacraments as the building blocks of the organization; create a healthy organization with effective leadership; and encourage a passion for evangelization and discipleship.

Chair's Report: The Archdiocese is undertaking a review of the Norms and Guidelines for Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Standing Committees at a Pastoral and Finance Councils Congress in February, and each parish is to send the Pastoral Council Chair and at least one TrustEE to the congress. Robert Scott and/or Randy Freeman will attend. The PC discussed the current version of the norms and did not have any suggestions for changes to submit to the Archdiocese.

Standing Committee Reports:

Worship – Redoing the "What's This" section of the Bulletins with a focus on various items in the church.

New Business: None.

Upcoming Dates to Note: Monday, November 19, 2018 – CLN – Brief PC mtg. combined with Finance Council during usual Standing Committee meeting time (6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) to review school proposal for K3 program.

Monday, December 10, 2018 – Pastoral Council, No CLN, at Karen's house

Meeting ended at 8:55 p.m. with the Sign of Peace.