

## St. John Vianney Pastoral Council Minutes

June 3, 2019

**Members Present:** Fr. Edwin Kornath – Pastor, Fr. Nathaniel Miniatt – Associate Pastor, Randy Freeman – Trustee Treasurer, Robert Scott – Trustee Secretary, Kim Prudlow – Chair, Karen Coon – Secretary & Formation Committee Liaison, Doug Wildes – Worship Committee Liaison & Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Rep., Duane McAllister – Stewardship Committee Liaison, Andy Stith – Finance Council Liaison, Gregory Van Winkle – Finance Council Liaison, JoAnn Cekanor – School Committee Liaison & Waukesha East Deanery Rep., Kathy Barutha – Human Concerns Liaison & Waukesha East Deanery Rep.

**Members Absent:** Betsy Wellenstein – Vice Chair

**Guests:** Angela Bravata, Director of Stewardship and Communications, and newly discerned PC members, Matt McCoy, Kathy Uy, and Jamie Zdroik

**Call to Order:** The St. John Vianney (SJV) Pastoral Council (PC) meeting was opened at 8:55 p.m.

**Trustee Report: Randy Freeman – Trustee Treasurer – Benchmarking update.**

The Benchmarking Survey and project is well underway. The questions have been finalized and are being put into an Excel format that will make it easy for the parishes being surveyed to read and answer, and for the Committee to tabulate the responses that are returned. The categories are:

- Parish, which includes topics like technology and attendance
- School
- Stewardship
- Formation

The intent is for the questions to be formatted and ready to send out with an invite letter the week of June 10, 2019 to the parishes selected. Follow-up will be over the summer and will be done by phone. Nine parishes within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and two parishes that are outside of the state of Wisconsin have been selected to receive the benchmarking survey. There is no guarantee that they will all agree to participate, but the incentive is that those who participate will receive the results of the survey, which they can then use themselves in assessing the future of their parish. Each parish is being offered the opportunity for a sit-down conversation as well, which will involve Randy Freeman, Trustee Treasurer and Robb Lied, Director of Administrative Services. Some parishes were chosen because of a specific area in which we are interested, e.g. good Mass attendance and Family Faith Formation programs, and others were chosen because of similarities to SJV in size, demographics and ministries.

The committee hopes to have the responses received and tabulated so that the results are ready to present at the first PC meeting in September. The results will then help with decisions regarding strategic planning. The intent is that the results will help PC select strategic issues, with facts to back them up, which PC can then take up or hand back to the appropriate Standing Committee to address. This information will help focus the Parish leadership develop a strategic long-range plan with a focus on those issues that will most benefit the development of the Parish and into which time is best invested.

**Pastor's Report:** At the priests' assembly in Elkhart Lake in April, Archbishop ListECKI informed Fr. Kornath that he will be appointed as the Dean of the Waukesha East Deanery, effective July 1, 2019. The current Dean, Fr. Howard Haase is moving to West Bend, so there was an opening. A consultation went out to the 25 priests in the Deanery, and Fr. Kornath's name came up as the top choice among the respondents. With the appointment, Fr. Kornath will be given the title of the Very Reverend Edwin Kornath, and will serve on the Priests' Pension Board. This is a three-year term, renewable twice.

Fr. Kornath then provided an update from the recent Deanery meeting at St. Dominic's. The Archdiocese presented the possibility of an Archdiocese-wide capital campaign, similar to the Faith in Our Future Campaign which they undertook about 10 years ago. The thrust of the campaign will be on all aspects of stewardship and will be done on a 5-year commitment structure. An advisor from the Arch will be assigned five parishes to oversee and assist. The campaign will be rolled out slowly, with a few parishes being asked to act as pilot programs. Fr. Kornath has been contacted regarding his willingness to have SJV act as one of the pilot parishes, should the Arch move forward with the campaign. Father declined the opportunity to act as a pilot because the campaign kick-off would be in October, in direct conflict with our own Stewardship Renewal Campaign, which historically commences in November.

The proposed campaign goal is \$200,000,000 dollars, with 12 or 15 potential areas of directed use for those funds, some capital improvements and some ministry expansion. The proposed capital campaign proceeds would be shared with the parishes on a 60/40 basis, with each parish receiving 60% of the funds collected from their parishioners. As under the Faith in Our Future Campaign, the parishes can use those funds for the areas in which they have the most need. The range of parish goals over the five-year campaign is 180 – 225% of your annual offertory, and will be assigned to each parish by the Archdiocese. The proposed breakdown for allocation of the funds raised is:

- Strengthening Our Parishes - \$100,000,000 to \$120,000,000, which is the piece of the campaign that would stay with the individual parishes
- Ministering to the Poor and Underserved - \$21,000,000, which is divided among Catholic Charities, Urban Ministry Center, and World Missions
- Fostering Vocations, Faith Formation, and Education - \$42,000,000, which is divided among St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Catholic Schools, College Campus Ministries, Lay Ministries, and Deaconate Ministries
- Building a Stronger Archdiocese - \$18,000,000, which is divided among Healthcare Fund for Retired Priests, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center (Cousins Center), Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, and Parish Campaign support

Many raised concerns and displayed anxiety regarding this proposed campaign. Primarily because there would be no hiatus on the other Archdiocese-wide campaigns and appeals, such as the Catholic Stewardship Appeal or the Combined Collections, and because of its possible effect on each parish's stewardship receipts. Additionally, during this campaign, the parishes are precluded from conducting any individual capital campaigns. As SJV would have needed to conduct a Retire the Debt campaign sometime before 2022, when the debt from the Doors to Our Faith campaign needs to be refinanced, Randy Freeman inquired whether the parish portion from the Archdiocesan campaign could be used to that purpose. The response was that would be a purpose to which SJV could apply its portion of the campaign proceeds.

**Staff Report: Angela Bravata – Director of Stewardship and Communications** -An update on the 2019 Stewardship Renewal Campaign through 5/31/19. They have developed some better tools in assessing

actual stewardship performance. This has allowed her to see trends in giving on a longer-term basis. Since the Stewardship Renewal Campaign was conducted a bit later than usual this year (early December, rather than early November), and she has implemented several additional and continuing reminders through other aspects of parish life, such as Family Faith Formation and personal contacts, Angela did an analysis of the stewardship numbers beginning in January, 2019, and compared them to the numbers from the same time period in 2018.

The analysis shows that in the period of January to May, we have had three months with an increase over 2018, and two months with a decrease in comparison to 2018. For the first quarter of 2019, just as a quarter, this is the best first quarter we have had in the last five years. Additionally, some of our large donors do not make their contributions at regular intervals, so when those donations are received, it can skew the totals for a month. We are still receiving those large donations and she has been successful in moving some donors from mid-level donors to major donors. Angela continues to work to build up the lead in annualized donations that has developed over the last month.

Angela is particularly focused on increasing the number of families who contribute through Faith Direct. The consistency of those donations makes budgeting based upon actual stewardship numbers much easier. Currently, there are just under 500 of the approximately 2700 parish families, that contribute through Faith Direct. She is hoping to increase that number to 600 with the next Stewardship Renewal Appeal.

**New Business:** The Pastoral Council undertook the discernment of leadership positions and liaisons to the Standing Committees for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. The Pastoral Council leadership for 2019/2020 is as follows:

- Trustee Secretary – Robert Scott (renewal for second 2-year term)
- Trustee Treasurer – Randy Freeman (2<sup>nd</sup> year of first 2-year term)
- Chair – Betsy Wellenstein
- Vice Chair – Gregory Van Winkle
- Secretary – JoAnn Cekanor
- Finance Council Liaisons – Andy Stith & Duane McAllister
- Waukesha East Deanery Reps. – Kathy Barutha & JoAnn Cekanor
- Formation Committee Liaison – Kathy Barutha
- Human Concerns Committee Liaison – Duane McAllister
- School Committee Liaison – Jamie Zdroik
- Stewardship Committee Liaison – Kathy Uy
- Worship Committee Liaison – Matt McCoy

**Upcoming Dates:** Pastoral Council meeting, August 19, 2019 commencing at 6:30 p.m.  
Common Leadership Night, September 9, 2019, commencing at 6:30 p.m. in the church, with PC meeting to follow, commencing at 8:45 p.m.  
Pastoral Council meeting, October 13, 2019 commencing at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ended at 10:15 p.m. with the Sign of Peace.