

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

January 9, 2019

The meeting started at 6:32pm.

**Present:** Father David Burgard, Elliot Alfredson, Donna Banker, Fred Fedorowicz, Heather Hall, Rick Kidd, Roger Kidd (Chair), Doug Kuras, Maria Liparoto, Anne Zochowski

**Absent:** Hugh Acosta, Lorie Bronson, David Heilman, Robert McMillan(Vice-Chair),

**Vision:** To Welcome. To Inspire. To Transform. To Serve.

**Mission Statement:** St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, a Catholic community of faith, proclaims Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, celebration of the sacraments, ongoing care for those in need, lifelong faith formation and stewardship of our time, talents and treasures.

**Opening Prayer/member prayer intention/reflection:** Father David led the members in prayer

**Vicariate/Arch-Diocese Report:**

Fred reported that the vicariate commissions were asked to submit new budget proposals for the fiscal year that begins in July, as well as the PEF (Parish Empowerment Fund) grant which funds the Hispanic Ministry. The vicariate is discussing support of the CCSEM Engagement Substance Recovery Center. He said the plan would be to ask the parishes to support this endeavor if the plan was adopted. Doug shared that he feels that the center is very valuable to the community and encouraged the council to support the idea.

Father David reported that in leading up to Christmas the focus of the diocese was the Unleash the Gospel initiative which centered around holiday attendance encouragement. He also reported that, *The Detroit Catholic* is now a digital communication for the church and contains many beneficial stories and information. Father said that there will also be a hard copy magazine coming soon. Maria asked how to access the Detroit Catholic and Father David said there is a link on the AOD website.

Fred asked if the council noticed an increased presence of the welcoming committee and it was shared that there is a visible difference at masses. Father David commented that this should be a regular focus and that we are making good progress. Father David stated that he is grateful to Lorie Bronson for her diligence in this endeavor.

**Commission Reports:**

**Finance Council**

Roger asked Father David if there is a new Finance council representative to the PPC, and Father David said that this is in process of determination and the new possible representative will attend the next finance meeting. He said that he will know more after the January finance council meeting. Father David spoke of the flyer that was sent to all families covering the current and past finances. The new church doors are still being adjusted and installation is not complete. Doug shared that the ushers have heard

many good comments/compliments on the doors. The Finance Council is currently monitoring and maintaining a list of prioritized improvements for the parish, as well as building up the funding for capital improvements. Father David reminded the council that there is also an account specifically for organ improvements/maintenance.

### **Christian Service**

Fred shared that, the Mrs. Claus Project was successful. GodWorks has 20 teams participating for 2019. New point people have been identified to fill in the vacant point positions, but more are needed. The GodWorks board will be recognizing the volunteers in the future. Father David asked Fred various questions about the GodWorks program, and Fred shared his experiences and knowledge about the program. Sunday, February 10, is the date for the next scheduled movie night.

### **Faith Formation**

Roger shared Mary Quicks report. Confirmation sponsors and candidates will be attending a special dinner on January 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Michaels. A new administrative assistant, Shannon Wood, has been hired to fill the position previously held by Heidi Pizzo. All students just completed the Circle of Grace project. The Faith Formation program has begun a monthly gathering for parents to engage them in the formation of their children. The deacons held an open question and answer session on one of the nights, and the parish priests will meet with the parents on the other night. All of the first Eucharist candidates participated in a church search in early December.

### **Stewardship**

No report

### **Worship**

There has not been a meeting since November. Father David gave thanks for the teams of people who assist with the care of the church and spoke of the wonderful job they do preparing the church for worship.

Elliot shared that when people who are not always in the church come for the holiday services, they receive an extraordinary experience through the visual part of our faith. He stated that it is very important to give thanks for the service those who care for the church.

## **Old Business**

### **Review of old business**

Pastoral Council Operational Procedures: Roger asked if the council needs another month to look at the document because of the need to review the document. Doug said that he felt it was good and no other members had comments/corrections.

Roger asked that the council consider where this document should be kept? Is it a private document, or should it be posted publicly. Roger will forward the copy to Father David for changes/comments and then bring the final copy to the next meeting for final approval.

## **Action Item Checklist:**

1. The confessional signs and restroom signs were discussed and are kept on the list for further consideration.

Anne stated that our church is a problem for those who are handicapped to have access to places that are farther away, especially for those who are handicapped. Anne asked that this be something to keep in mind for future consideration. All agreed that this is a good point and Father David will consider this. The Usher's room was discussed as an option for this concern and Father David is very open to this option.

\*ACTION ITEM: A more easily accessible confessional provision for those who are handicapped.

2. Worship Aides/Missalette: Complete

There were prayer/meditation aides made for adoration. Father David will put those out for the next adoration dates. Maria asked if there could be mass assistance cards available with the updated prayers and responses on them available.

\*ACTION ITEM: Mass assistance cards

3. Sunday evening mass: This will continue to be explored for possible future implementation

4. Childrens rosary prayer group: There was a meeting on this topic, and it is still in process

5. Recording angel statue: This project evaluation is on hold for warmer weather so that Mr. Green can invite an assessor to assess the Custer statue and determine if he might be able to assess the Recording Angel Statue. Revisit in April.

9. Welcome home banner for front entry: This project is still in process

10. Internet safety for families: Roger does not have capability to do at this time but it will continue into a future program possibility. There was a discussion on ways to get this done.

11. Catechist information on Website: Still being looked at

12. Re-Establish Evangelization Commission: This needs to continuously be addressed and done with expediency.

16. Evangelization: Sue Cummins is interested in this commission.

17. Women of Grace: Remove from Action Item Checklist

18. Student involvement in Faith Ministry: Suggestion about high school students helping with funerals. Father David shared that it is difficult to get students out of school and missing school time. Remove this from the Action Item Checklist

**Pastor's Comments:**

Father David asked the members to think about their experiences with the joining of the Catholic Church's of Monroe.

Father encouraged the council to attend the January 22nd respect for life service which will include adoration, prayer, and mass.

Mercy night will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-9:00 pm at Saint Mary's. Father encouraged the council to invite people and offer to attend with them to provide encouragement and support.

Saturday, February 23, is the parish appreciation dinner in the PLC.

Father encouraged the members to read the three books that were offered to parishioners during the Christmas Services, and he stated that most of the books have been taken. He is going to try to schedule a date for discussion on, The Biggest Lie in The History of Christianity.

**Next PPC Meeting-** Tuesday, February 12, 2019

**Closing Prayer-** Father David

Respectfully submitted by: Donna Banker, Recording Secretary