

## Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes February 18, 2019

The meeting began with Kathy Wedig Stevie offering the prayer.

The minutes from the Parish Pastoral Council retreat in January were approved.

We discussed how to make progress on ideas that were brought up at the retreat. We agreed that some of them would best be handled in smaller committees that would report up through Parish Council.

Cindy Hassan passed out a parish calendar, proposing that this would be a dynamic document that we can add to throughout the year. Some thoughts to keep in mind regarding upcoming events:

- **Parish picnic**—We need to make a decision about the parish picnic soon, specifically its location. The picnic grounds at St. Walburg are under new management, i.e., the people who run Madonna Manor (instead of the Benedictine sisters). For now we will book the picnic shelter there so we have it. We can always change it later.
- **New parishioner brunch**—Instead of hosting a new parishioner brunch in the spring, we can invite them to the Holy Thursday dinner. The parish picnic will be another event where we can welcome them. Then we can hold a brunch in November.
- **Parish Christmas party**—We may want to change the location of the parish Christmas party. Last year's event was very successful, but it was uncomfortably crowded. As we talk about growing our parish, space becomes an issue. We are limited by the size of the hall. We could look at holding it at St. John's or at the Latin School cafeteria.

### **Hospitality update**

The St. Patrick's Day party is planned for immediately after the 11:30 Mass on March 17. Carol Johnston has a recipe for corned beef and cabbage. We will also be serving fried chicken for those who prefer a different dish, and Steve Oberjohn is taking care of ordering cannolis.

### **Youth ministry**

Bridget Kaiser reported on the young adult event held here at Mother of God on February 5 with Dr. Allen Hunt. It was well-attended (about 150 people). He spoke for about 35-40 minutes, then took time to answer questions. That was followed by Eucharistic Adoration. There was no social afterward.

Jerry and Bridget Otto are parents of two St. Henry graduates and are parishioners here. They are interested in doing something for young adults. Cindy Hassan, Bridget Kaiser and Craig Davidson are going to meet with them to explore further possibilities.

## **New business**

At the parish retreat, Fr. Mike brought up the book, *Rebuilt*, by Michael J. White. He would like the council to start reading it and said he will tell us how much we should read for the next meeting.

For the next meeting, we will work on updating our parish mission statement. This will be the main part of the agenda.

Father also talked about the need to be more active on social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. He will need some coaching. Someone suggested he consider doing podcasts and that his Bible study classes would be perfect content for that.

Mary Ann Kelly suggested that the parish needs to develop an image/new branding, which could also replace what is currently on the parish banner. She also suggested we do some evangelical events, which could fill a void now that Mainstrasse has collapsed. We could do a homecoming/street fair and invite all the people who have a connection to the parish.

BLINK Cincinnati is coming to Covington this fall. We need to be thinking of how we can tap into that event and pull people into the church, e.g., host tours, have music playing, etc.

**Parishioner concerns**—Mary Ann received some feedback from a parishioner, voicing some concerns:

- He is not hearing anything about what Parish Council has been doing. Nor has he heard any explanation of the parish finances. Could updates be posted regularly in the bulletin? (Cindy Duesing agreed to write something up that could be posted in the bulletin and on the website.)
- There isn't much for senior members going on in the parish. The elderly don't have much access to the pastor. And there are some pastoral gaps when Fr. Mike is gone. Who is the staff person who can connect with people? It feels like a lot of older parishioners are leaving.

Dave Boyle reported that he heard concerns regarding hosting receptions after funerals. The work keeps falling to the same people. They are getting burned out and are asking for help. (It was suggested that we ask volunteers to form two-person teams to assist with funerals.)

More volunteers are also needed for coffee and doughnuts after Mass. The question was raised if we can offer a healthy alternative to doughnuts, e.g., fruit.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm. Dave Boyle volunteered to offer the prayer at the beginning of our next meeting.