

St. Ursula Pastoral Council Meeting

January 20, 2020

ATTENDEES

Jeff Breighner	Fr. Jason Worley
Colleen Hamilton	Sr. Joan Kelly
Nancy Webb	Tony Vitti
Katie Campbell	Shelley Commodari
Tom Scheve	Mary Anne Fox
Linda Frazier	Tom Flynn
TS Dowd	Bill Kreidler
Steve Smith	Michael Colbourne

Excused absence – Laura Callender, Bernie Miller, Mark Appleby, Tina Riesett

NOTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Jeff Breighner who opened with a prayer.

The minutes from the November meeting were approved.

COUNCIL GUEST:

Tony Vitti, President of St. Ursula's St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Society, discussed the work and challenges that he is facing. He explained the history of SVdP and noted that the Baltimore council was founded in 1865. St. Ursula's council, one of 39 in the Archdiocese, was founded in 1946 and helps about 60 – 100 families each month.

- SVdP operates a food pantry in partnership with the Maryland Food Bank. They receive and distribute 2000 lbs of food per month.
- SVdP receives funds from parishioners, via the Poor Box, to provide financial assistance to people in the 21234/21236 zip codes who are facing eviction or power shut off. They will send \$100 directly to BGE or the landlord. Occasionally they will help someone who is in dire need of a prescription.
- They also direct people to the appropriate government or other types of resources.

The St. Ursula SVdP Council is doing well in terms of finances and volunteers. They manage their finances very closely to ensure that they have enough money to help the community. Approximately 35 – 40 parish volunteers assist Tony with this ministry.

Tony has been President for the past three years. According to their by-laws, his term expires after three years. However, none of the current volunteers can replace him. Tony is willing to stay until a successor is identified and trained. He asked for the Pastoral Council to help identify candidates who might be able to lead SVdP.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Liturgy – Mary Anne Fox said that their last meeting was canceled due to weather.

- ✓ Service – Sr. Joan reported that committee did not meet during November and December but was active either: delivering goods, buying, or sorting gifts for our Christmas Outreaches both in parish and school. Food was delivered to both St. Ann's and My Sister's Place. Toys and goods were delivered to the Hickey school and St. Ann's and the 2 parishes in their pastorate. Jenny Huff and her committee prepared and organized the giving tree very efficiently and will contact the organizations for pick up. Some parishioners questioned why there were not gifts for children on Giving Tree. It was an oversight. Next year we will add St. Ann's to the tree. The Franciscan Center outreach was successful.

- ✓ Faith Formation – Mary Anne Fox reported that the committee met on the 9th. The next Bible study, The Keys of Happiness, will start at the end of February. They identified Parish giveaways for Lent. Tanya Ray joined the group and is putting more structure around youth involvement.

- ✓ Hospitality – Shelley Commodari indicated that the committee is planning choir breakfasts in the spring and events around Jeremy Smith's ordination.

- ✓ Youth Ministry – The Council discussed how Youth Ministry should be represented at future meetings. The group decided to invite Zach Colgan as a guest at a future meeting.

- ✓ Facilities – Mark was not present but submitted a report on current projects:
 - Church Air Conditioning – The contract was signed with Johnson Controls.
 - Parish Information Technology infrastructure and equipment upgrade – We suffered a water leak in the office data closet over the holidays. Several pieces of network equipment were damaged. Temporary equipment is in place until the new switches are in and configured. Once completed, staff will see greatly increased speed. Virtual Local Area Networks will be separated into groups and managed data usage will be implemented during the switch/network replacement.
 - Master Key System – They are rekeying the outside locks on the Spiritual Center; replacing 6 key cylinders on the church exterior doors; replacing the rectory front and kitchen door locks.

- Upgrade Property Security System – An additional closed-circuit TV (CCTV) camera is being installed in the parish office; portable panic buttons are being provided for the front reception and administrative offices; they are working on adding an exterior door camera/intercom to secure the Spiritual Center; future upgrades to install a front door CCTV/intercom to two inside stations and a door monitor/intercom in the office conference room.
 - They will remove and replace the trees on the north side of the parking lot between the parish office and the Wilson Ave. driveway.
 - Our snowplow contractor is considering retiring and they are discussing how to replace him at a reasonable cost.
 - They have repainted several handicapped parking spaces near the Spiritual Center.
 - They will get pricing for a phone in the Good Shepherd room and discuss with Fr. Jason.
 - Fr. Jason wants to discuss a way to control water run off from the back driveway to a neighbor's property. Colleen asked whether we have a Civil Engineer in the parish who might be able to offer some assistance.
- ✓ Finance – Katie Campbell reported that the balance sheet is strong. However, the budget vs actual is around \$8000 short and \$13000 below last year. All expensed above the approved budget must be discussed with Fr. Jason. They have already collected \$18000 for the AC repair through private donations and plan a special collection in March. The Archbishop's Annual Appeal is coming.
- ✓ PHSA Update – Tamara reported that they showed Toy Story 4 on January 10th. They are having a school fund raising night at Chipotle on February 5th. Catholic Schools Week is next week. PHSA is hosting breakfast for the teachers. The Mother's Club will host a cash bingo.
- ✓ School Board – No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Financial Seminars – The Council discussed whether we should allow Mark Rossbach and Mark Glinoweick to conduct the proposed financial planning seminars. Fr. Jason will make some calls about any legal implications.
- Parish Mission – Katie suggested that if we were going to have a parish mission in the upcoming years, we should start planning now. The Council proposed a mission in 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pastoral Council Elections - Article 5 of the By-Laws requires the Vice President to form a committee in January to develop a slate of candidates for the Pastoral Council. Colleen asked members and officers with expiring terms to decide whether they want to continue for a second term.
- Soup Salad and Stations – The Pastoral Council will host the first Friday of Lent, February 28th. Colleen will send out a Sign-Up Genius.
- AC Chiller Fund Raising Ideas – The Council suggested that we could use a thermometer chart to gauge progress in fundraising efforts.
- Parish Issues - We discussed what the membership felt were the most challenging issues in our parish.
 1. Welcoming
 2. Youth Involvement in the Parish
 3. Recruiting Volunteers
 4. St Vincent De Paul
 5. Finances
 6. School Involvement in the Church
 7. Losing Parishioners
 8. Aging Parishioners
 9. Instituting "ACTS" ministry ideas

Tamara suggested that we could also discuss how to enhance some areas where the parish is doing well.

PASTORS' REMARKS: Fr. Jason closed with a prayer.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Tony Vitti to provide a list of food pantries in the area to the parish office staff.
2. Pastoral Council members will identify possible candidates to serve as President of SVdP.
3. Jeff will invite Zach Colgan and Laura Weatherington to future Council meetings and determine how these ministries can be represented in the Pastoral Council.
4. Mark to get pricing to install a phone in the Good Shepherd room and discuss with Fr. Jason.
5. Discuss water run-off from back driveway to a neighbor's property. Is there a Civil Engineer in the parish who could assist?
6. Fr. Jason to investigate any legal implications regarding the financial seminars.
7. Form a committee to plan a 2022 parish mission.
8. Select ideas for parish improvement – areas where the parish is doing well and areas that are not doing well.

9. Support Soup Salad and Stations on 02/28/20.

Submitted by:

Nancy Webb, Secretary

January 24, 2020