

Blessed Sacrament Pastoral Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2018

**Present:** Karla Bray, Catherine Boesen, Pat Colwell, Maggie England, Jenny Hemesath, Fr Tom McDermott, Tatiana Myers, Harland Robinson, Tom Salkeld

**Absent:** Joanne Chandler, Tanya Cutsforth, Steve Kennedy

Harland Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Prayer was led by Jenny Hemesath.

**Quarterly Strategic Planning Reports:**

• **Finance Council Strategic Plan** - Tom Salkeld

Focus areas 2 & 3: Both focus areas have the same report. Budget planning for the 2018-19 fiscal year begins the week of January 22nd. FC is in the process of obtaining budget requests from staff and committees. Two parish meetings were held in November. The meeting held after mass was attended by about 40 parishioners. The Tuesday evening meeting did not attract enough parishioners to hold the meeting. The handful of parish leaders in attendance engaged in an informal discussion. It was recommended that future parish annual meetings be limited to one session to be held after a 10:30 Mass. The Pastoral Council agreed to this recommendation by a consensus of opinion.

Focus Area 4: Committee support continues. The Social Justice holiday food bag project was completed in December. The project was supported financially through brass bucket and parishioner donations. The parish contributed an extra \$1000 to round out the number of food bags distributed. Finance contacted local Catholic Parishes asking for volunteers and financial help for our annual Lenten Service Project. We also met with 4<sup>th</sup> street coalition of churches – Zion Lutheran has donated \$500 and St Edwards helped with \$500, as did Sacred heart \$100. Knights of Columbus may also have contributed. Blessed Sacrament's share was \$10,000.

• **Liturgy Strategic Plan** – Catherine Boesen

Focus Area 2: Music positions were filled for the Fall, Advent & Christmas season. Faye Hansen and Jake Schaefer have been hired to play at the 4:30 & 8:30 masses. Adult Choir has declined to 22 members. Youth group is doing well enhancing our music. We continue to make contacts using time & talent survey. We continue to recruit and train servers & Eucharistic ministers (including one high school senior). Deacon Chris Evans is the new coordinator for servers.

Focus Area 3: Live streaming of Mass is coming, possibly Holy Week. The All Souls/All Saints celebration was well attended. Anointing of sick in October was well attended. Advent included extra opportunities for adoration and reconciliation. Defibrillator training was provided by Catherine Boesen prior to Christmas, approximately 24 people attended. We are considering having 1 or 2 more sessions before Lent.

Focus area 4: We are considering additional handicap seating, particularly for the 4:30 Mass. Child care for 2-5 year olds during 10:30 mass is coming, possibly February 25th or March 4th. Children's Liturgy of the Word is progressing. A coordinator has been found. Getting high school students involved. There will be a Youth Mass sometime during April/May. Lots of things in the works!

**In-Service:** The council viewed PC Orientation Video #1 from the Archdiocese of Dubuque summer webinar series as a refresher. We discussed contents of this video, including strategic planning and holding our activities to the mission of the Church & Parish. We'll view part 2 next month.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

CVCS Operational Vitality Report Analysis - Tom Salkeld: FC/PC agreed to adopt the CVCS proposal of 1.5% reduction over 3 years with re-evaluation yearly. Tom provided an analysis of the Archdiocese Operational Vitality Report comparing CVCS enrollment, revenue and expense data to that of the other Catholic School Systems within the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Fr. Tom asked for questions and explained the advantages/disadvantages of centralized

CVCS model in use. The Dubuque Catholic School system is more similar to the CVCS model. The administration costs are higher now. CVCS is looking at administration to increase efficiencies.

WCFFC Budget Subsidy Request for 2018/2019 Program Year - Tom Salkeld

We are in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of combined operation of faith formation with the budget subsidized by the four Waterloo parishes. Revenue has been static for those 4 years while expenses have fluctuated due to changes in programming and staffing. In the past, WCFFC has been able to fund salary increases for staff through adjustments in programming and absorption of unfilled positions. We have reached the point where this is no longer possible. It is anticipated that there will be a 2% salary increase for 2018-19, which will require an increase in parish subsidies. This 2% increase would result in a total subsidy increase of \$6551 for the four parishes, which is allocated to the four parishes on a pro rata basis. The Blessed Sacrament share is 26%, or \$1703. Finance committee recommends approving the \$1703. This should be reviewed yearly. Harland moved and Pat Colwell seconded to approve the request for \$1703 for staff salary increases. Motion passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Comments:** Appreciate the willingness to consider salary increases for faith formation folks. Some parishes have expenses for Spanish/Burmese language faith formation. Encourages understanding that the financing stream is formulated the way it is for a reason and is a justice issue. Also, the Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) will be at American Martyrs Retreat House (Real beds! No gym floor!) February 2nd - 4th. This year, CEW is Co-Ed, so spouses may attend. Cost is \$130.00 and scholarships are available through the parish to help defray the cost.

**Committee Reports:**

- Liturgy - Catherine Boesen: already given as part of Strategic Plan report.
- Stewardship - Harland Robinson: 374 time & talent surveys in – thanks to Karla Bray. Joyfully Gifted Workshop participants will participate in small groups again for the folks who attended the November session.
- Finance Council - Pat Colwell: YTD 6 months, our financial situation is healthy. Our revenue is about \$93K above our expenses YTD. Grateful to all who contribute to Blessed Sacrament.
- Parish Community Life - Maggie England: Looking for a chairperson for Winter Fest/Spring Fling. Calls are out. Facebook presence, Salad Supper coming in spring. Family Movie Night will be Feb 10th, right after 4:30 mass. The movie is "The Incredibles".
- Social Justice - Joanne Chandler: No report.
- WCFFC - Harland Robinson: No additional report beyond the staff salary increase.
- CVCS - Jenny Hemesath: New Chief Administrator Tom Novotny; Catholic Schools week coming January 28th, a celebration mass at Blessed Sacrament will be at 10:30 on January 28th. There will be an Open House for 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Columbus HS on January 22nd – recruiting for the High School. Archbishop Jackels was coming to town to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Columbus (update from Fr Tom – the bishop fractured a tibia and may not be attending the celebration).
- Youth Representative - Tatiana Myers: The Kairos Retreat went well with 25 participants. Youth group meets on Wednesday nights. Hosted a middle-school lock-in last week at Blessed Sacrament.

**Closing Prayer:** Jenny Hemesath.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Miserere nostres, Domine, miserere nostres (Have pity upon us, Lord, have pity upon us)

Respice humilitatem nostram (Remember our humility)

Scribum tuum Patricius il Anciano MMXVIII-I-XVI (Your scribe, Patrick the Ancient 2018-01-16)