

TRI-PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

August 27, 2018

7:00 PM at St. Joseph-Olney

Present: Wayne Kocher, Cathy McDowell, Jeffrey Rosenburg, Stacey Steber, Vickie Stuckey, Jane Kocher, Kurt Ginder, Carl Will, Michael Kistner, Tony Kuentler, Kevin Blank, Heather Blank, Cindy Blank, Herman Zuber, Donna Zwilling, Brian Ochs, Mary Zwilling, Sherry Geier, Pat Elie, and Fr. Mark Stec.

Fr. Mark welcomed members of the Tri-Parish Partnership Pastoral Councils.

Opening Prayer: Ephesians 4:11-12

The Pastoral Council members were asked to consider the following questions and excerpt from **Rebuilt**, pages 105-113. After table discussions, each group shared thoughts. Comments and discussion for each question immediately follows each question.

“As a Church, we are charged to influence people who are far from God with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. Much of that message runs counter to the way our culture thinks and acts. Much of it also runs contrary to our fallen human nature. And yet, God calls us to use that message to influence our culture and community. Acceptance paves the way to influence. We will listen to people who accept and love us.”

- 1. What grade would you give the hospitality of your parish?** *Improving, hard to know what visitors might see; people are greeted; feeling good about current practices; need greeters at side doors. Discussion included the idea of “giving permission” to parishioners to turn and acknowledge others attending Mass. Fr. Mark commented, and some agreed, that there are people who expect quiet and reverence before Mass begins. Also, that newer Churches are built to better accommodate discussion and greeting. Others wondered if it would be appropriate, before Fr. Mark opens Mass, for possibly the lector or cantor, to make an announcement to greet others before Mass begins.*
- 2. Of the ministries listed previously, which would be the easiest to get going or improve in your parish?** *Hosts/greeters; activities after Mass; ushers and greeters; add a Tech Group to manage sound systems, microphones, etc. (frees the Priest of this duty, assists visiting Priests).*
- 3. How can you make it easy and accessible for people to get involved and stay involved?** *Facebook, offer more opportunities to sign up and be trained in a ministry; enthusiasm for areas in which we serve; personal invitation; additional posters (not just putting information in bulletins); update lists of current ministries, who is already serving, and open the opportunities to others more often.*

4. **How should you communicate your ministry values and standards to the volunteer ministers in your parish?** *More training, feedback, and updated information to those who currently serve; positivity and passion for your ministry; positive attitude in the pews; face-to-face meetings to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the ministries.*
5. **How can you consistently and effectively communicate your values and standards to all your members as well as your ministers?** *More training feedback; sharing information; falls to the leadership; stay consistent; make use of marquees; teach by example; stay “on message”.*

Liturgy and Worship

Mass Schedule

- Saturday, October 6, 2018-Bishop requires my presence at a St. John Nepomucene at 6:00pm. Fr. Mark will check with Fr. Steve Rudolphi and Pastoral Associate Caroline Trimble for availability to provide masses/Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest.
- Thursday, November 22, (Thanksgiving Day) I am not available for masses. The consensus was for no Tri-Parish mass to be offered. Surrounding Parishes' Thanksgiving mass schedules will be published in our bulletins.
- Saturday, December 8, (Immaculate Conception) I am not available for masses. Fr. Steve Rudolphi will be contacted to determine his availability for the Friday night and Saturday morning masses (Holy Day of Obligation that cannot be lifted).

Faith Formation

- High School Religion began August 15 (after the 6:30pm Mass at Holy Cross-Wendelin for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) and has been well attended. The format has been open for questions and discussion based on topics chosen by the high school students.
- PSR/Home Bases Catechesis:

GRADE SCHOOL RELIGION CLASSES/SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION (PSR):

This year, parents will have the choice of one of two options to help in the teaching of our Roman Catholic Faith.

The **TRADITIONAL PSR** classes which have been the backbone of faith formation for over 100 years, will continue on Wednesday evenings (beginning on September 26) **HELD ONLY AT THE HOLY CROSS-WENDELIN SITE.**

The second option is: **HOME-BASED CATECHESIS** is just that, a way of catechizing (instructing, forming, teaching) your child in the home.

Over the years, there are more and more competing Wednesday evening activities for your family to participate in, but we do not want sports, travel or other events to stand in the way of your child's religious education. You have already been given the responsibility by God as the primary catechist for your child - we just want to help you instruct your children in the faith.

Each year, at St. Joseph in Olney and St. Joseph in Stringtown, we have struggled to find catechists willing to offer their time and talent instructing our children as well as combining many children of development (grade) levels together in order to have a sufficient class size. All of our classes at St. Joseph-Olney and St. Joseph-Stringtown have only 1, 2 or 3 students.

Whichever option is chosen we want to ease some of the stress we have seen on parents as well as catechists.

- Parish Mission: Fr. Jim Sichko will preach weekend Masses beginning on Saturday, September 15, 2018. The Mission will be Sunday, September 16-19 at St. Joseph's Olney beginning at 6:30 nightly.
- Adult Faith Formation: Women's Spirituality Group offered twice monthly at St. Joseph's Olney continues; Small Groups (possibly within homes) is being planned; Young Adult Group and Adult Group initiatives are being planned (with support from Fr. Mark and Caroline); Faith-sharing time for Adults while youth are attending PSR classes is being organized (looking for Adults to facilitate).

Community Life

- A job description will soon be published for a stipend position for supervisor(s) for Volleyball/Open Gym to be held on Sunday afternoons, (time to be determined) at St. Joseph-Olney for the months that youth will not be able to play softball at Holy Cross Wendelin.
- Possibility exists for two mission trips for summer 2019, a domestic trip June 9-14 (ages 8th grade-20 years \$625/person) and an international trip June 22-30 (ages 16-20 \$1600/person).

Governance

A text message service (Flocknote) will be purchased to make communicating with groups and committees within the Tri-Parish Partnership safer and more effective. Currently, people are using their personal devices.

Implementation of the Next Step

Fr. Mark opened discussion to any questions or concerns that any Pastoral Council members have around the recent news about Catholic Priests. He offered to provide opportunities for all Parishioners to meet, ask questions, and share concerns. The consensus was that there is no current need for such a meeting and that Council members would keep him informed of feedback we might hear for a need in the future.

The next Tri-Parish Partnership meeting will be held on Monday, October 29, 2018 at St. Joseph's Stringtown at 7:00. A new Mass schedule (with three Masses) will be announced after this meeting.

Closing Prayer:

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD
Diocese of Belleville, Illinois