

St. Bernard and St. Henry Joint Pastoral Council Minutes for Meeting of Thursday, March 16, 2017
in St. Henry Rectory Hall, Watertown, Wisconsin

I. Meeting called to order by Fr. Pat at 7:05 pm. (Both Chair and Second Chair excused absent.)

Members present: Pastor Patrick Wendler, St. Bernard members Tracy Bargo, Irene Blenke-Krysiak, Kathy Reinhard; Hispanic community reps Nancy Acosta and Ronald Castellon; St. Henry members Francine Butzine, Michael Kraemer, John Wanke, and trustee James Becker.

Excused: Fr. Alex Carmel, St. Bernard members Brian Wolhaupter, Kathy Chandler, and trustees Al Reinhard and Ron Johnson; St. Henry members Bill Liebhart, Michael Christian, and trustee John David

II. Pastor Fr. Patrick Wendler led Council in the "Prayer for Our Watertown Catholic Community."

III. Affirmation of the approval of the January, 2017 minutes previously approved online.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Worship

Communion ministry to homebound growing, especially in complexes where others notice it being done for people living in same building.

Reboot plans moving ahead. Kathy Reinhard will contact Ginny Smith about possible slight problem with tickets that are already online. (High school site contract not yet signed.)

Jim Becker mentioned he knew of a potential lector. Fr. Pat asked him to have that person call him and Jackie Rosinski so that name could be included on next cycle for lectors.

Fr. Pat has contacted Patrick Gorham of the Diocese to come out to Watertown for two seminars on weekday summer evenings for both communion ministers and lectors.

Music schedules for organists for both parish services will now be done by Jackie Rosinski.

Ginny Smith will continue to make music selections with approval by pastor.

There will an Annunciation Vigil Mass offered at 7:00 pm at St. Bernard Church on Friday, March 24 and a 9:00 Mass at St. Henry on Saturday morning, the 25th.

A few parishioners have inquired about the possibility of receiving communion kneeling. Fr. Pat is checking with other priests to see if they offer that option in their parishes, and, if so, how it is done. What works in one church might not be feasible in another simply because of how the church is built.

B. Religious Formation – no report

C. Schools

There will be a restructuring of the Education Commission to go into effect for the 2017-2018 school year. The commission will consist of the heads of the following committees: Home and School Association, the Athletic Association, the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) group, the Annual Fund committee, and the Future High School Planning Group. The plan is to meet quarterly – or more if needed. There will also be a liaison from Pastoral Council attending those meetings so he/she can report back to the PC. Plans are underway for having "Dinner and a Play" this spring for visionary people who have been giving generously to the Annual Fund. A group of Watertown Catholic School sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will be providing the thespian talent.

D. Stewardship – no report

Fr. Pat suggested that John Wanke contact Lyn Zimmermann for information since she has been in charge of the "Time, Talent, and Treasure" initiatives for both parishes.

E. Human Concerns

There will be a two parish wide rummage sale March 31. One half of the proceeds will go to help finance the parish youth mission trip to the South this summer. The other half will be split equally between St. Bernard and St. Henry Parishes to add to their charitable needs funds. Fr. Pat shared that the "normal procedure" now, if someone comes to the rectories for aid, is to send them to the police

department first. That department keeps tabs on folks who may be “scamming” and those who have legitimate requests. When legitimate, they will direct them to agencies like St. Vincent dePaul or the Food Pantry, etc. The parishes do support the Food Pantry by accepting donations for it and occasionally even sending them a check to purchase supplies.

F. Vocations – no report

Fr. Pat did mention that the diocese is considering forming a diocesan-wide committee to help support vocations, It will probably have one person from each of the seven vicariates on it. Fr. Pat said Michael Kraemer would be able to represent us in that group.

G. Parish Life

For the upcoming St. Patrick's Dinner at St. Bernard's on Saturday, March 18, the request to offer Pro-Life Tee-shirts for sale at it was granted. The proceeds from it will go into the youth summer mission trip. The Chili Supper at St. Henry last month netted enough to make a \$400 donation to the aforementioned youth mission trip.

V. Facility Review Update and VI. Planning Study Update

(Information and discussion on the two aspects were pretty seamless.)

Over the last few years, a number of very necessary capital improvements have been made at both parishes, with St. Henry paying out about \$214,000 and St. Bernard \$350,000. Taking care of these has pretty well drained savings at both parishes, and it is starting to become necessary to take money out of the general funds to cover costs. The custodians and Buildings and Grounds people have worked hard on establishing priorities for continued maintenance improvements. The PRA – Plunkett Raysich Architects, LLP – was hired to do an exhaustive study of all the buildings and grounds of both parishes and prepare separate reports for both parishes on what they found to be needs regarding the structures, plumbing, and electrical conditions. They also provided estimates of the costs involved. This information will be shared with ALL parishioners via a mailing going out in the next few days.

Another firm, the Steier Group, will be conducting a comprehensive planning study. It will involve direct interviews with a number of parishioners and a survey of ALL parishioners on what parishioners regard as the greatest priorities among the problems pointed out by PRA, and the feasibility of initiating a capital campaign to cover these costs. All this is explained in the mailing to the parishioners of both parishes. (Parishioners are receiving and responding to information that is relevant to only their particular parish.)

Fr. Pat shared that two companies are working with Melissa Lampe of the St. Bernard Church renovation committee – in place since before Fr. Pat was assigned – to give estimates for the plastering and painting of the inside of St. Bernard Church for which there are funds already in place.

Fr. Pat also mentioned that as time goes forward, beyond the 5- year plan envisioned, there will be a number of ADA (American Disabilities Act) improvements that will need to be addressed. One that should be handled in the near future should be providing true handicapped access bathrooms at both St. Henry Church and St. Bernard. St. Bernard's bathrooms won't need as extensive a project as St. Henry will since St. Henry's will involve taking out a wall (of an adjacent closet) and providing a lift of some type because of the steps.

Every year these needed projects are put off, it is inevitable the cost of doing them will increase. The plan also hopes for enough funds to create a sizable endowment for which the inevitable costs of keeping up the buildings and grounds of parishes such as ours will provide funds from its interest.

VII. Motion to Adjourn

Tracy Bargo proposed, John Wanke seconded. All in favor.

VIII. Father Pat shared a blessing. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 7:00 pm at St. Henry Rectory Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Francine Butzine, Secretary