

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

- I. Meeting called to order by Pastor, Fr. Patrick Wendler, at 7:00 pm.
- II. Fr. Pat led the Council in prayer.

III. Members present: Pastor Fr. Patrick Wendler; St. Bernard members: Tracy Bargo, James Romlein, Kathy Reinhard, Kathy Chandler, and trustee Al Reinhard; St. Henry members: Donna O'Brien, John Wanke, trustee Jim Becker, and Francine Butzine (non-voting secretary); Excused: St. Bernard member Irena Blenke Krysiak and Hispanic member Nancy Acosta; Absent: Hispanic member Ronald Castellion

IV. After a slight amendment, minutes of the October 2017 meeting were approved. Donna proposed, John seconded. All in favor. Amended minutes will be now be distributed.

V. Pastor's Report: Official Capital Campaigns in both parishes have been completed although more new pledges could come in. The company hired to run the campaigns said our parishes were very unique in two ways: they were shocked at the number of one-time gifts – two to three times the number they normally see in other parishes they have worked with; they were also surprised at the high percentage of responses (pledges, one time gifts, and declines) – 45% at St. Henry. On those two points, it's very possible that next year the one-time givers may decide to repeat their gift, and although St. Bernard's return is currently at 30%, a second mailing is being done. At St. Henry the second mailing yielded results; it may do the same for St. Bernard's and therefore raise their return rate.

Father is very pleased with the results – about \$374,000 in pledges and gifts so far at St. Henry; about \$520,000 for St. Bernard's. He said it will be much easier for the finance and maintenance committees to make budgets for work to be done over the next few years. A member shared that as parishioners see maintenance projects completed some may be inspired to give for future projects. Since not all necessary repairs are evident to the untrained eye, it was suggested that they be communicated with the entire parish when work is done. Another member offered an insight into the possible reason for the one time gifts: those with investments might want to make decisions regarding gifts yearly based on how well their investments paid off – something that can vary widely from year to year. Father again voiced his gratitude for all those who responded to the campaigns.

VI. Pastoral Council Committees Reports

A. Worship Goals: Father Pat is working with the parish secretaries, Julie Gates and Jackie Rosinski, on developing some training programs for the various Mass-based ministries.

B. Religious Education Goals: Kathy Reinhard reported that there are four more Theology on the Rocks meetings to be offered this year. Generally 10-12 people participate. Offered following the 5:15 Tuesday Mass, they are sometimes held in St. Bernard's chapel room, sometimes at sites like Tribeca or Berres Brothers. Three weeks remain for the other adult ed program presently being offered, a video series on the Bible and Sacraments. Planning is in process for programs to offer in the coming year. Kathy shared a brain-stormed sheet of topics that Theology on the Rocks participants offered as possible topics.

Matthew Kelly, a widely respected Catholic writer and speaker, will be in Milwaukee on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. With Fr. Pat's approval, WCC has agreed to a commitment to publicize the event and sell tickets for it. In return, Kelly's organization will send us 1000 Perfectly Yours books, three cartons of which will be in Spanish; they may be distributed in whatever way Father chooses. There will be a weekend when tickets will be ½ price so the plan is to advertise that date well in advance so parishioners can take advantage of it.

Hispanic Community Update: The 5<sup>th</sup> Encounter group, comprised of Hispanic parish members, are meeting regularly to explore ways to more effectively reach members of the wider Hispanic community to encourage

them to fuller and ongoing participation in their Catholic faith and heritage.

C. School Goal: Donna O'Brien spoke with both Sherry Strupp (St. H) and Jenny Mudler (St. B) who head the school campuses' initiatives in promoting SCRIP sales. Both women are happy with the programs thus far but wish there were more people purchasing the gift cards and more volunteers to help with the program. Father noted that there has been growth in purchases among the 100 plus school families so he can envision how profitable it would be to have more parishioners-at-large purchasing them. Discussion followed which included reminding all that they are able to make out order forms one week and pick up orders the next, and that Scrip can also be ordered on-line and then retrieved at the school offices. All proceeds go to helping offset school expenses. Buyers get full value on all cards purchased so in effect they are not spending anything extra to help the school. A \$50 Scrip grocery card buys \$50 of groceries, yet the school nets a percentage of the price.

D. Parish Life: Tracy distributed a form from last year for a possible parish calendar design in the future, an idea that was put forward last month by Irena – who wasn't present at this meeting. (Excused absent.) She expressed her delight at the huge number of people at the Reboot event last Wednesday. Some estimates were as high as 1300 people. Father reiterated his thanks for all those who worked so diligently on bringing Chris Stefanick to our community. Tracy also shared that Jo Hodgett of St. Bernard's has volunteered to chair the revival of the Soup and Rolls Lenten Wednesday suppers.

E. Stewardship Goal: There was a question about whether a new stewardship form was ready to distribute to the WCC. Father said that with all the other work being done this fall, – Capital Campaigns, Reboot, etc. – the hope was to get at that after the holidays.

F. Homebound Ministry: Going well. Fr. Miro will be letting Francine know his schedule of visiting shut-ins so she can keep a master calendar of them and thus be able to answer any questions regarding priest contact with these people. Kathy Reinhard commented that she knew he had visited all the known Catholics at Zinzendorf.

G. Vocations: Jim Romlein shared a “straw man” template form he created on “Planning Steps and Activities for Parish Committees” and used it to provide information on the efforts of Bishop Morlino to increase the number of seminarians, demonstrated by the growth from six men in 2003 when he came to 30 in 2015. Jim received information from the Director of Vocations, Fr. Greg Ilm, about a vocations-oriented Quo Vadis Club. Along with St. Bernard parishioner Ben Plummer, Jim plans to establish a WCC Vocations Committee. He asked about the Knights of Columbus vocation boards that were donated to both parishes some years ago. Fr. Pat said that he and the secretaries update them with vocational materials they receive from the diocese.

VII. New Issues for Open Discussion: Jim Romlein broached the idea for integrating computer calendars of the various organizations and committees of the two parishes into a master WCC one. Fr. Pat made it clear that all activities that involved parish buildings had to come through the parish offices because of possible conflicts with the use of the facilities. He said that Jim would have to work with him, Bob Wolf, our technology consultant, Lyn Zimmerman, and the parish secretaries to see how much of his plan could be implemented.

Jim R. also asked if there were some regulation in place regarding how many meetings could be missed without excused absences before asking a member to step down and be replaced. No one was aware of any such stipulation. It could be explored at our next meeting. Tracy mentioned that she would not be present at any meetings until April since most of her winter is spent down South. Fr. Pat noted that those would be excused absences. As per custom, there will be no planned Pastoral Council meeting in December.

VIII. Adjournment at 8:10 pm. Kathy Chandler proposed, Kathy Reinhard seconded. All in favor. Father closed the meeting with a blessing.

**Next meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2018, 7:00 pm, St. Henry Rectory Hall** Francine Butzine, Secretary