

The St. Bridget and St. Gabriel Pastoral Council met at 6:00 pm on Thursday, November 3, 2016, in the St. Anthony Center at St. Bridget.

Present: Sue Barth, Doug Biehl, Mark Boehmer, Denise Dubois, Father Dustin, Joe Finch, Al Gardner, Travis Harvey, William Hertel, Larry Hinkle, Jane Jolliff, Steve Kiefer, Susan Kiefer, Melissa Knock, Josh Marszalek, Paul Nobbe, Carolyn Nutty, Joe Pflum, Kevin Poe, Pam Rader, Barbara Terkoski, Steve Wesseler

Absent: Elizabeth Hauger, Charlene Phillips

Guest: Jeanette Bischoff

Larry H. welcomed everyone and opened with prayer. The readings from the next Sunday were presented, followed by reflection and discussion.

Minutes from September 1, 2016 Meeting:

Mark B. moved and Jane J. seconded that the minutes be approved. Minutes were approved as published.

Distributed Reports:

Prior to the meeting all members had been provided with written reports from the Finance Councils, Friends of St. Bridget, School Commission, St. Gabriel Property and Facilities, St. Bridget Property and Facilities, St. Bridget Oktoberfest Income and Expense, St. Gabriel Faith Commission, St. Bridget Adult Faith Formation, Liturgy, and Attendance/Parish Membership. Written reports are included in the secretary's binder. Additional comments and clarifications include the following:

1. If anyone would like a hard copy of any report please ask Larry H. or Barb T.
2. Pam R. reported that St. Gabriel is in the black. We received reimbursement from the state for the voucher program. There is still a need to watch spending.
3. Steve W. reported that the St. Anthony Center is waiting for new windows and some touch-up work.
4. Father reported that there will be new extra envelopes provided in the St. Bridget packets to collect for a new church roof.
5. Mass attendance is declining. See the reports. The bigger concern expressed by Father is not the collection but if parishioners truly grasp the significance of Mass attendance on Sundays and Holy Days. Missing Mass is a grave sin. Father read from paragraph 1035 of the Catechism. Can we ask others why they haven't been at Mass? Do we need more education? Father asked us to share with him our thoughts and ideas of how to bring others back to church and fill the pews as well as deepen the commitment of those already there. Souls are at stake.

Other Business Items:

1. Steve W. reported that the Oktoberfest was very successful. Revenue was up. A follow-up meeting has been held.
2. The Fall Festival netted \$11,000, down \$5000 from last year but still considered a success. A follow-up meeting has been held.
3. On Election Day St. Gabriel will offer Adoration for Our Nation, with the Blessed Sacrament present in church from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. St. Bridget will also be open for prayer.
4. On November 30 St. Gabriel will offer an Advent Penance Service and Mass with First Reconciliation for children.
5. December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Vigil Mass will be at St. Gabriel; the Holy Day Mass will be at St. Bridget.
6. The Pastoral Council will host the Community Meal on April 23, 2017.

St. Bridget/St. Gabriel Strategic Planning:

The Finance Councils have approved hiring Chip Williamson and Chameleon Architecture. The executive committee, Doug B., and Josh M. will meet with Chip on November 4. Our goal is to develop a five-year strategic plan for both St. Bridget and St. Gabriel with assistance from Chip for 9-12 months. The first step is to form an oversight or steering committee (specific name for this group to be determined) to lead this process. We need approximately seven people to represent both St. Bridget and St. Gabriel with vision, thoughtfulness, and skill in organization and motivation who have the time to commit to this process. We are to forward names of parishioners with these qualities to Father and Larry H. by Monday, November 7. Doug B. commented that both parishes need transformation. People need reasons to stay at St. Bridget and St. Gabriel. This oversight/steering/leadership team will be the face of this important project. Larry H. distributed a letter of support to pastoral council members requesting a commitment to prayer for this project and if possible a financial donation toward the contract with Chip Williamson and Chameleon Architecture. Letters of support and any financial pledges or contributions should be placed in a blank envelope and forwarded to Pam's attention.

Regarding communication methodologies, Jeanette Bischoff was present to address the council about a communications committee. Larry H. had asked Michelle Struewing and Jeanette, the developers of our website, to develop a list of responsibilities such a committee would supervise. Michelle and Jeanette need people from both St. Bridget and St. Gabriel to help structure the committee so everyone will know everything that is happening at both parishes all the time. We are to forward names of parishioners to Jeanette and Michelle.

Linkage Plan Review:

Larry H. will email the linkage plan for council members to continue to review. We are to become very familiar with it as a working document. Think about how to communicate our vision and mission statements.

Closing:

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Thursday, January 5, 2017 @ 6:00 pm; St. Gabriel School Multi-Purpose Room

Executive Committee Meeting (Father, Larry H., Mark B., Barb T., Jane J.): Tuesday, December 13, 2016 @ Noon; St. Gabriel Parish Meeting Room

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. Thank you to our St. Bridget members for the excellent refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Terkoski, Secretary