

The St. Bridget and St. Gabriel Pastoral Council met at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 9, 2017, in the St. Anthony Center at St. Bridget.

Present: Doug Biehl, Mark Boehmer*, Denise Dubois, Father Dustin, Joe Finch, Travis Harvey, William Hertel, Larry Hinkle, Susan Kiefer, Melissa Knock, Josh Marszalek, Paul Nobbe, Carolyn Nutty, Pam Rader, Barbara Terkoski, Steve Wesseler

Absent: Sue Barth, Al Gardner, Elizabeth Hauger, Steve Kiefer, Joe Pflum, Charlene Phillips*, Kevin Poe*

*Mark Boehmer has completed his term on the Pastoral Council.

*Charlene Phillips resigned her position on the Pastoral Council prior to this meeting.

*Kevin Poe has completed his term on the Pastoral Council.

Guests: None

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

Minutes from January 5, 2017 Meeting:

Susan K. moved and William H. 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, School Commission, St. Gabriel Property and Facilities, Faith Commission, Liturgy, Attendance/Parish Membership, Communications, and The Beacon of Hope "Light it Up!" Collaboration Team. Written reports are included in the secretary's binder. Additional comments and clarifications include the following:

1. Father reported that the Liturgy Committee has prepared and made available to both parishes a small purple handout with the Lenten and Holy Week schedule.
2. Larry H. reported that the Liturgy Committee is "running on automatic" and does not need to meet as frequently.
3. Larry H. noted that the Mass attendance at both parishes was down in January and February. There is a lot going on; we want and need people to be engaged.

Other Business Items:

Larry H. distributed copies of the new bylaws. As noted above, Pastoral Council now has three new vacant positions (Mark B., Charlene P., and Kevin P.) along with the previous position vacated by Jane J. We need someone from St. Bridget to serve on the Executive Committee. Thank you to William H. for volunteering. Father updated us on Al Gardner and asked us to keep him and his family in prayer. These vacancies and Al's absence have resulted in a "lopsided membership" on the council favoring St. Gabriel. We continue to operate as a single council and strive for an ideal number for balanced representation. We anticipate an election in late summer or early fall as we have several members completing two-year terms. We are a working council and looking for parishioners who want to serve in this capacity.

Connected in the Spirit:

Larry H. stated that the latest report to the Archdiocesan Planning Committee (APC) due on February 23, 2017 had been submitted to the Archdiocese prior to the deadline. Everything went well. The next full progress report is due May 15, 2017. This will be shared with the Pastoral Council.

St. Bridget/St. Gabriel Strategic Planning:

Father gave a "State of the Pastoral Council" report. He stated that the work of the Pastoral Council, Liturgy Committee, Communications Committee, and Faith Commission has exceeded his expectations. He credits the Pastoral Council for establishing a strong foundation for this to occur. Goals and objectives of the archdiocese and both parishes are being addressed and met. We should not lose sight of "the forest for the trees" however, and remain focused on our vision and mission.

Father stressed three points that we all need to follow:

- 1) It is critical that the parish leadership be centered on Christ, the Gospel, and personal prayer. Our work as a council should not be separate from Sunday worship.
- 2) We need to read everything sent to us in preparation for meetings.
- 3) Regarding communication, nothing can ever replace personal conversation. We need to talk to people and share what's going on.

Father concluded with a heartfelt thank you to the Pastoral Council. Doug B. encouraged Father to speak up and refocus the council if/when necessary.

Larry H. distributed copies of the Parish Goals and Objectives. As before and once again, we are reminded to READ THIS DOCUMENT AND BECOME VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE PAGES. THIS IS A WORKING DOCUMENT. EVENTUALLY THE OUTCOMES OF THE BEACON OF HOPE 'LIGHT IT UP!' PROCESS WILL BE FOLDED INTO THIS DOCUMENT, AND WE WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

Doug B. suggested planning our own town hall meetings, perhaps annually, to refine our goals and objectives. Larry H. then led a table activity to jot down progress toward specific goals.

Doug B. reviewed the Beacon of Hope "Light it Up!" report. Four of the six town hall meetings have been held. Participation has been positive. Chip Williamson, our consultant with this process, has complimented the parishes on their enthusiastic participation.

Closing:

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2017 @ 6:00 pm, St. Gabriel

Executive Committee Meeting (Father, Larry H., Barb T., William H.): Tuesday, April 18, 2017 @ Noon, St. Gabriel Parish Meeting Room

Father closed in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. Thank you to Carolyn N., Josh M. and Barb T. for the delicious refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Terkoski, Secretary