

The St. Bridget and St. Gabriel Pastoral Council met at 6:00 pm on Thursday, May 4, 2017, in the St. Gabriel School Multi-Purpose Room.

Present: Sue Barth, Doug Biehl, Father Dustin, Joe Finch, Travis Harvey, Elizabeth Hauger, William Hertel, Larry Hinkle, Steve Kiefer, Susan Kiefer, Josh Marszalek, Paul Nobbe, Carolyn Nutty, Joe Pflum, Pam Rader, Barbara Terkoski, Steve Wesseler

Absent: Denise Dubois, Al Gardner, Melissa Knock

Guest: Jeanette Bischoff

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

Minutes from March 9, 2017 Meeting:

Susan K. moved and Paul N. 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, St. Bridget 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. Steve W. provided an oral report from the Friends of St. Bridget. Recent activities include the Etiquette Workshop, St. Patrick Lenten Fish Fry, School Breakfast, Wine & Cheese Evening, Mother-Daughter Tea, and Parish Breakfast on Divine Mercy Sunday. There will be a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Union County 4-H program on May 6. The next meeting on May 15 will focus on Oktoberfest.
2. St. Bridget submitted an application to the archdiocese for a grant to replace the church roof.
3. St. Gabriel has selected a vendor to replace the sound system in the church.
4. The Faith Commissions from St. Gabriel and St. Bridget now meet jointly.
5. Larry H. reported positive feedback to the Liturgy Committee regarding the Holy Week and Easter liturgies. Next year Holy Thursday will again be celebrated at St. Gabriel and Good Friday at St. Bridget.
6. Mass attendance is down overall. See charts.

Other Business Items:

Pastoral Council will serve the Community Meal on May 28, 2017. Susan K. circulated a sign-up sheet. She and Barb T. will adjust the menu as needed and send out an email reminder to council members prior to the meal. Favorable comments regarding the new bulletin format were shared. A calendar day will be held on June 15 to coordinate next year's activities at both parishes.

Connected in the Spirit:

Larry H. provided an update on the implementation plan. This is due to the archdiocese by May 15.

The Beacon of Hope “Light it Up” Parish Renewal Plan:

Doug B. reported that the big survey will take place between May 13 and June 3. This survey will consist of multiple choice items. Larry H. encouraged all members to read the headlines provided by Chip Williamson. Doug B. emphasized that these headlines are “snapshots” obtained from the town hall meetings, interviews, and the first survey. They are not set in stone but rather offer ideas for discussion. Father emphasized that NO decision about any of the buildings will be made until we firmly establish our parish mission. Only then will we ask if our buildings support/enhance our mission and begin to look at options.

Dialogue Activity:

In his headlines report to the parishes Chip Williamson noted the unique and special characteristics of the Friends of St. Bridget. These characteristics include a deep bond of friendship, a commitment to service, and a willingness to take on and carry out a wide range of projects to support St. Bridget and the local community. This group has evolved and flourished over many years for many reasons, two of which are the absence of a resident priest for a long time and the small size of the parish. Father is intrigued by the nature of this group and wonders if it is possible to incorporate something similar at St. Gabriel. Furthermore, looking to the future, how can we be sure we continue and expand our ministries if the day comes when we have no resident priest or a priest who has three parishes instead of two? How can we create a culture where things get done and not be priest-dependent or person-dependent? Could we function without councils, committees, and commissions? How can we “get stuff done” and involve lots of people and avoid cliques? How can we adapt to threats to our strategic plan as the future unfolds? What about a “Ministry by Mob” such as we saw at the town hall meetings? How can we channel the enthusiasm we witnessed at the town hall meetings? Father reminded us that the Apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit, went out and set the world on fire. How can WE look like the Body of Christ?

Larry H. led us in a creative circle activity to talk about these issues. Jeanette B. recorded the discussion and will provide us with her notes. ***(See pages 4-6 for ‘draft’ comments.)***

Parish Linkage Implementation Plan Review:

Larry again encouraged all members to make the parish goals and objectives a working document. Email him any updated information as well as comments about tonight’s dialogue activity.

Closing:

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Thursday, July 6, 2017 @ 6:00 pm, St. Bridget

Executive Committee Meeting (Father, Larry H., Barb T., William H.): Tuesday, June 13, 2017 @ Noon, St. Gabriel Parish Meeting Room

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 05-04-2017

Father closed in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. Thank you to the executive committee for the refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Terkoski, Secretary

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Pastoral Council		05/04/17														
Attendance Roster																
GENERAL MEETINGS		09/03/15	11/05/15	01/07/16	03/03/16	05/05/16	07/07/16	09/01/16	11/03/16	01/05/17	03/09/17	05/04/17	07/06/17	09/07/17	11/02/17	Absences
1	Sue Barth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓				2
2	Doug Biehl	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				1
3	Mark Boehmer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	0
4	Denise Dubois	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A				2
5	Fr. Dustin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				0
6	Joe Finch	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓				1
7	Al Gardner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	M				2
8	Travis Harvey	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓				1
9	Elizabeth Hauger	Non-member	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓				3
10	William Hertel	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				0
11	Larry Hinkle	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				1
12	Jane Jolliff	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	0
13	Steve Kiefer	A	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A	✓	✓	A	✓				5
14	Susan Kiefer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓				1
15	Melissa Knock	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A				3
16	Josh Marszalek	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				1
17	Paul Nobbe	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				1
18	Carolyn Nutty	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓				1
19	Joe Pflum	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓				3
20	Charlene Phillips	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	A	✓	✓	A	A	A	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	4
21	Kevin Poe	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	✓	A	✓	A	✓	A	A	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	4
22	Pam Rader	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				0
23	Barbara Terkoski	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				0
24	Steve Wesseler	Non-member	Non-member	Non-member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				0

**PASTORAL COUNCIL DIALOGUE SESSION
MAY 4, 2017**

Imagine a parish without councils, committees, commissions, ...

(thoughts, comments, ideas from the pastoral council meeting 5/4/17)

1. Innovation is needed, change is needed, get past the feelings of why something is scary to move forward, having a big meeting (*similar to our town hall meetings*) is a good way for new parishioners to know what is going on and a way for them to tell us new ideas
2. Go from a hot topic from the town hall to a big meeting to move forward to start the process of parish getting prepared for one group or meeting
3. Time is wasted in meetings (*current perception*)
4. We need to learn how to operate without priests because it (*shortage of priests*) will not change, there won't be more priests in the future
5. K of C is St. Gabriel's "Friends"; they need and want more members to be more helpful to the church
6. People need to be engaged because they want to, not because they have to - if people are engaged we can reach out
7. K of C - who is asking them to do things? - ideas have to come from someone
8. Too much structure can curb enthusiasm, limited structure can make people feel like they can pick something and just go with it... not wait for permission
9. Gut answer is "no" to no meetings, always have a huddle in football
10. Even apostles appointed other people to help
11. We have groups doing their own thing, do we need a meeting to tell what is going on?
12. We need many people to do all that was suggested at town hall meetings
13. Engaging people who aren't part of a clique - joint parish questionnaire - to find interest, mark an interest so a person for group to contact or if they have an idea they want to propose if they don't know who to tell the idea (*I think this person was talking about our stewardship papers we fill out every year*)
14. Can't shoot down ideas - actually listen and talk about it
15. PTSG - not many parents are attending, what happens when there is no commitment to be at meetings?
16. People won't show up if they don't care. What is it about PTSG that they aren't coming? Why did people come to 6 town hall meetings?
17. PTSG could be a way to show limited structure, many parents are in charge of something, come to the meeting to ask permission to do things

18. *(There)* Needs to be captains of different teams to lead the huddles
19. Things can build so the group can take off
20. Lava lamp - lamp structure, blobs go do their thing, and then come back to report
21. Town halls were structured but not shown as a committee meeting - people felt they could voice their opinion because it was not someone from our churches
22. Not sure how other committees work; i.e. finance
23. Everyone is welcome with their ideas and where can we go, friendly atmosphere, bounce ideas off of each other, and see who has same ideas, hesitation now because groups have not done it that way in the past
24. Leadership is what we are talking about, oversight is what is needed, so people can come with their ideas and all have a common goal
25. Committees at one time good; need to focus them back on goal *(good point by another person)*
26. How do you get people there? Town hall was successful because it was different. How do you advertise this? Is it a big idea night? How you advertise is how it will be successful
27. Negative - where would a meeting of this size be?
28. Can it happen after Mass? You need to be able to move when someone has the idea. Don't need to take back to a different committee
29. Need to be able to give information to people that day. like phone numbers and contact info
30. Don't curb enthusiasm - let people be able to do what needs to be done
31. Town halls should be initial *(start)* - then move to a committee-type setting
32. With the limited amount of people engaged - how do you pick what matters to focus our time and attention on?
33. We haven't mentioned faith - we don't focus on what God wants us to do - how do we change people's way of thinking?
34. We want changes and we want them now, "Friends" as evolved over 12 years. St. Bridget is on much smaller scale, this isn't going to be smooth, this is going to take a long time since it will be a much larger scale, we need to stay with it in the long term *(agreement from another person)*
35. Think about this system being in place when people on this committee are gone
36. "Friends" is a committee, *(they)* meet, discuss, and plan
37. What is the most important thing to do? When should I do it? Everything that is right in front of you
38. Friends - deal with what is right in front of them until it is over
39. We should identify things by what our faith tells us to do

40. There is no welcoming committee at St. Gab's; Daughters of Isabella taking it over
41. We can take all the ideas to the committee (*Friends of St. Gabriel?*) instead of going to Fr. and Sue (*Barth?*)
42. Might stop some of the double "booked" activities

(Compiled by J. Bischoff)