

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting 3-21-2024

In attendance: Father Paul Buchanan, Peter Barthelemy, Bob Chaplin, Chris De Rego, Adrianna Echeverri, Jon Hamilton, Catherine Hefner, Brittany MacAlester, Robert Rodite, Bethsy San Millan, Charlie Scott, Thomas Sims, Cam Tracy, Kimber Zappia,

Unable to attend: Rose Williams

Chairing this meeting: Chris De Rego

Opening prayer-C. De Rego

Minutes from 01/2024 council meeting reviewed and confirmed approved.

Topics brought to pastoral council:

**1. Old Testament Bible Study**

- 50% of the readings from mass come from the Old Testament. The idea was expressed that we form a group to study.
- However, Fr. finds that existing men's and women's Bible Study groups that are already established can add focus more on the Old Testament. The concern lies for attendance – will people attend another group bible study. The Old Testament could really provide some insight into current day affairs, given how far back the Old Testament goes it.
- Another concern is that lay people are the one's leading these studies rather than theologians – an idea could be miscommunicated during these studies. This issue could be resolved by inviting others, such as someone from the Abby – Fr. Paul is certainly qualified to speak during these studies as well.
- Who verifies that whatever is being taught during these classes is accurate? Suggested that Fr. Paul should sit in on these meetings. There are several tools the Church already pays for that can be utilized for these meetings.
- Fr. Paul will reach out to see what interest there is with guest speakers who are qualified to lead these discussions.

**2. Council Meeting Frequency**

- Fr. Finds that 10 meets a year are more than we need, however 4 meetings a year are not enough.
- Recommendations was made that we could invite a few people from other parish groups for them to share information about their ministries. On the other hand, the parish council is supposed to be made up of people who represent the bulk of our parish. We should already be participating in these groups and being able to speak for them during these meetings. Our role is not to serve as a board of directors or police the parish, but rather than to be an ear and thoughts for Fr. As a council, we need to be making ourselves known at mass, mingling with parishioners, which can be easily done every single weekend.
- Conclusion: 6 meetings a year is appropriate – how we structure those meetings can be fluid. Summer is more dormant and does not hold more information. The summer can pause on meetings. The school year should be held every other month: August, Sep, Nov, Jan, March, May. November can be a social. Fr. Certainly invites us to participate in other parish groups, but for our own interest, rather than to oversee their operations to ensure accuracy. By-laws will need to be updated to reflect this change.

**3. New Members Elections**

- Next meeting is in May, which will be elections. After Easter, Father will call members to stand during Mass, and invite them to seek information.
- Two people are rolling off this year and will need to be filled. Members will have to run by the parish office to pick up applications – no digital copies will be sent out.

**4. Fr. Paul Updates**

- Lisa Owens was hired as secretary to be a consistent presence in the office.

- There are new doors in the office – the breezeway will be updated as well.
- A camera will be added to the outside so Lisa can see guests when arriving. This is simply a safety measure.
- Holy Week schedule will remain the same – no changes. Council is encouraged to attend all the services they can. At Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Masses, the chalice will be offered.
- Family Faith is undergoing some modifications. The goal is to move the meeting out of the church to make the sanctuary a more reverent place for parishioners. The other goal is to divide the groups so teachings can be age centered. It is the expectation that the parents go with the child that they feel will need them the most during that time. There has been some confusion on what the expectation of the parents are during these meets. Fr. Will happily provide that clarification the next meeting. These meetings have driven Mass attendance, which needs to be preserved for the future.
- Some parents feel they do not know the faith enough to teach their kids – the goal would be to have a Catholicism 101 as a refresher or enrichment class, identical to RCIA classes. We could also open the RCIA classes up to anyone interested in attending. A schedule with topics could be released ahead of time so parishioners could attend the classes they feel they want to learn more about.
- Council praised Fr. For his well delivered homilies. They are very good and that also drives attendance up.
- Confirmation is in May – interviews were added as a new item this year. They have been asked to speak on their Saint, why they wish to receive the sacrament, etc.

Reminder of next month's meeting 5/16/2024

Closing prayer-Fr. Paul