

## St Catherine Labouré Pastoral Council Meeting

January 13, 2018

### Call to Order – by Dorothy at 9:40 am

**Present** – Joyce Ford, JoAnn French, Sean Holmes, Katie Napp, Michael Orley, Len Rechichar, John Reed, Dorothy Swehla and Father Fred.

**Absent** - Al Parnell (**excused**)

**Guests** – Deacon Michael Holmes, Sharon Orley

**Recorder:** Tammy Holmes

**Opening prayer** – Len Rechichar

### Reading of Parish Mission Statement:

*Mission Statement: We, the community of St. Catherine Labouré, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will strive to serve the Gospel message in reaching out as the Body of Christ to serve our brothers and sisters.*

### Approval of minutes –

**Sean made a motion to approve the minutes from November 13, 2017. Joyce seconded the motion. Approved with all in favor.**

### Call to the public:

**None**

### Public concerns voiced to Council members:

**Len** – concerns about lighting in choir area – can't see music. Deacon Johnsen has also stated that the electrical outlets are not working outside.

### Pastor's Report:

**Fr. Fred** – we are in the process of getting new mics for priest and deacon. This will result in less antennas in the church and less interference. The new mics are designed to work with new system. He also reported the Finance Council has established Tuition scholarships for families with students at Sacred Heart School. The Diocesan Capital Campaign starts here this year in the fall. We are expected to raise 500k over the next 5 years. The parish gets 30% back from what we send in every quarter. Our annual CDA goal is \$35k again this year. Father attended a retreat in LA this past week for the Claretians. Father has been asked to consider doing a radio program for his order or going to work at a retreat center in Canada that they own. At this time, nothing has been determined as far as his assignment. Sacred Heart will be experiencing changes in clergy. Fr. Vincent is here to learn English, and Father will be talking with him to see if he can provide some minister retreats for the Spanish community, as well as perhaps celebrate the Mass in Spanish a couple times a month.

### Committee Reports –

**Fr. Fred** – appreciates efforts of everyone for the reports, including Tammy who compiles the reports.

## **OLD BUSINESS –**

- **Reach out to former Catholics** – Catholics Welcomed Home, RCIA, Intentional Disciples
- **Establish multi-generational programs** – Holy Family Ministry
- **Increase ministry volunteers** – We have trained two new volunteers, with two more to train. SET ended up 15 volunteers being removed, but 4 completed class within week after.
- **Foster Spiritual Growth** – Intentional Disciples program. Holy family Ministry new Young Adult Group.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Knights pancake breakfast Jan. 14 starting at 8 am.
- Just Coffee sales January 20 & 21 the hall after Saturday and Sunday morning Mass.
- Holy Family Ministry movie night Friday January 19 @ 5:30 pm in the hall.
- St. Catherine's Angels Sat. January 20 at 9 am in the St. Michael Room.

## **Parish Newsletter – due by the 15th of the month prior**

1. February - Dorothy
2. March – JoAnn
3. April – Michael Orley

## **New Business**

- **Confessional inside church –**
  - **Sean** – traditional along aisles – no room due to existing structure and furniture in the room.
  - **JoAnn** – the proper place to hear confessions is inside the church, which the current confessional is. Maybe we need to educate the congregation regarding what constitutes “the church.”
  - **Len** – fire codes will not allow us to move them into the church without a major building project
  - **Fr. Fred** – would like a response typed up and given to Mr. Bilotti. Father would like it to contain “we are looking at other options.”
  - **Dorothy and Tammy will type a letter for Father to approve to be sent to Mr. Bilotti.**
- **Lent / Easter**
  - **Len** reported that the Knights will be assisting at Easter for families in need – Father receives gift cards to hand out from Safeway.

## **Member Concerns –**

**JoAnn** – trying to get in to Daily Mass has been interesting – not knowing where to go. Not knowing where to place the host was not handled well. She feels that we need to unlock the door if Mass is moved to the church. Father says those who attend Daily know what to do. The Sacristans need to know they must unlock the front door using the “dog down” key. And then they must remember to LOCK the door at the end of Mass. Father will take care of this.

**Katie** – when are we getting the new marquee? Father replied that the town is requiring a new Conditional Use Permit so the process will be awhile yet.

## **Agenda items for next meeting on March 12, 2018**

- **Please forward any requests for items on the agenda to the office.**

**Michael Orley made a motion to close the meeting after prayer and mission statement at 10:30 am and move into the retreat. JoAnn seconded the motion. Approved with all in favor.**

**Closing prayer – Father Fred**

**Mission statement read by all.**

**Next meeting March 12, 2018**

## **RETREAT**

**Information from the presenters at the retreat will be listed as “bullet points”**

### **PRESENTATION by Father Fred**

- Theme of Youth. Sometimes we overlook the value of the youth in our parish. We ask the to become adults before we expect them to become active in the parish.
- God uses the youth to build a covenant relationship with his people. Example Abraham and Isaac. If Isaac was sacrificed, there would be no covenant.
- Jesus played with the children and taught the adults. We do the opposite.
- King David chosen as a youth, not as an adult. He was the youngest of his brothers. David tended the flock because no one else would. He had no authority to decline the care of the flock.
- God’s Son saves us. It is the SON who comes, not the Father.
- When you look at the scriptures, the youth are leaders. John the Baptist was chosen in his mother’s womb.
- We celebrate the massacre of the Holy Innocents in the attempt to kill the infant Jesus. This continues today through abortion. We need to give them a voice so that they can be born.
- Value of youth is in the scriptures. Jesus taught in the temple at age 12.
- The recognition of Jesus was in his infancy, not as an adult.

- We shouldn't wait until someone becomes an adult to recognize they have value. We need to proclaim a value for youth starting today.
- Jesus would not use the model we use. Educate the children, give them a sacrament, and then say goodbye until they are ready to get married.
- Parents fight having to be involved in the child's education. They don't like to attend classes or help at Catholic schools.
- Perhaps if the children were allowed to belong in the first place, we might not be in this position. We need to involve them. Our current state of "protect them, avoid them, but don't involve them" needs to change.
- We need to recognize they are of value now. We need to celebrate them when they attend Mass.
- Baptisms should be done during a Mass. We need to involve them in the Mass.
- This is not a youth problem, this is an adult problem. Jesus himself said let the children come to me.
- If Jesus doesn't have a problem with this, we shouldn't either. They have ownership of the church through their baptism. They are a member of the community.
- What about offering envelopes to the youth?
- The fourth Sunday of the month, youth help as ushers, lead the rosary and sing in the choir. How many youth leave before we recognize their talents?
- Every year at RCIA we have people who return to the faith because the children want to get more involved in the faith.
- How do we foster their vocation in the church?
- We need to make changes to recognize the value of the youth since they are already members of the church.
- Parents need to ultimately do more of the teaching of their children.

### **COMMENTS on Father's presentation:**

**Deacon Mike** – was actually told by one person that the baptism at Mass was an inconvenience. Every year we have parents who drop out of our current program because they don't want to attend Mass and attend the classes. Sometimes sports are more important.

**Dorothy** – grandson with down syndrome – large baptism with several children during Mass.

**JoAnn** – there should be more events for kids that provide babysitting, so the parents could attend classes. Can we involve a mentor program? Mentors for RCIA participants (father replied that sponsors are supposed to do this).

**Deacon Mike** – mentor for young marrieds. We (he and Tammy) had a mentor couple during marriage prep when we were married.

**Fr. Fred** – the biggest increase in predators in the US is teens and women. The church is trying to educate the youth and the adults to the things that are around them. This state employs an "if you see it - you must report" culture. This means we must ensure the Safe Environment process is enforced.

**Deacon Mike** – could we form a foster grandparents group to work with kids in the church?

**Len** – somehow we need to try to change the thinking of those who are of the “this is my pew” crowd. what about adding a time to greet people before Mass starts? Recognizing visitors at mass? Make no one a stranger.

**Sharon Orley** – we have always felt welcome at St. Catherine’s. Our parish is doing well, but there is always room for growth.

**Mike Orley** – feels he has grown since coming to St. Catherine’s. He is involved because he feels welcome to participate.

**Deacon Holmes** – Confirmation when teens – we involved the teens in community service. They really enjoyed the experience. St. Catherine’s Angels has children, parents, and other adults working together. Open invitation to youth to help us with projects

**Katie** – Holy Family Ministry Barbeques are open to all of the parish. Dinner and movie nights are open to all of the parish.

**Mike Orley** – a baby step was taken with the new Young Adult group. Mentoring was mentioned as part of the things they talked about. He and JoAnn are looking at a music program to bring people through a music night.

**Joyce** – do we have a program for the parents? Deacon Holmes replied that our Religious Education programs are Family catechesis programs that teach the parents.

## **FINAL COMMENTS by Father Fred**

- We can’t address what we do not know. We tend to address symptoms first, because we don’t know what the problem is. The problem is not the youth not being here, the problem is the church doesn’t acknowledge them being here. We need to help them feel like they belong. We need to fix US, not the youth.
- In younger parishes, the older folks are ignored. The opposite of the problems we are experiencing. But older folks have resources and experiences that youth do not have available to them. The issue is not our age – it is what are we willing to do.
- Small steps are the best way to start. Start somewhere – and grow from there.

## **PRESENTATION by Sean Holmes**

- Youth in the Church – Sean addressed the teens 16 to 19, but can extend to 15 to 20
- Cradle Catholics “I haven’t been to confession in about a year” versus converts who “go to confession as much as I can.”
- Cradle Catholics struggle like Peter, while converts have the zeal of St. Paul
- Cradle Catholics have been brought to Mass since birth, they believe they are forced to attend, they don’t have a say, they can grow tired of the same thing every Sunday. They can drift away.
- This leads to erosion of their identity and possibly their soul.
- What youth want is to be given the knowledge, for both mind and soul. Filling the hole with things that are not God, won’t make them happy. There needs to be relationship in

order to find happiness. They need to feel important and loved. Identity crisis affects youth starting around 13. Not knowing who they are leads them to turn to sex, drugs and violence (towards others or themselves). They can push away faith and eternal life. They can believe they cannot be saved.

- They can be saved. We need to let them come – willingly. A good nuclear faith foundation can be the basis for them to find their way back.
- Young Adult Faith and Food night – seven people attended with ages from 17 to 28. They willingly came to the session, and even if they were shy, they were nodding in agreement to some of the points that were brought up.
- The Holy Family Ministry helps them to recognize they are a part of a global family, made up of adoptive parents, grandparents and even brothers by coming to the events.
- Sean, who has been part of the teaching team for the Family Catechesis program, feels that it seems to be working using the model of teaching the parents and allowing the children more time to “play.”

### **COMMENTS on Sean’s Presentation**

**Dorothy** – do you interact with the Sacred Heart group? Sean replied the Mass at 5 pm is for the youth, who participate as ushers, lectors, choir, etc. They have a Children’s Liturgy of the Month once a month. They have youth activities after the 5 pm Mass. They tend to do expensive projects.

**Fr. Fred** – youth programs at Sacred Heart are mostly 7,8,9. There is really no involvement after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Sean** – youth can choose to attend the more traditional Mass because it would be “counter culture” for example they may be drawn to the Latin Mass because it is more traditional.

**Len** – would a “middle of the road” approach work to draw more youth to Mass.

**Father** – we speak too much about the language. The Latin Mass is TRADITIONAL, chapel veils, no announcements, proper attire. They have a profound sense of reverence and respect. We don’t have that same sense of reverence at our Masses. The sense of reverence is missing. We need to start with GOD, and not the Frills. Jesus started with his relationship with God first.

**Dorothy** thanked Sean for his input. The Council members agreed.

**The Retreat ended at 12:30 pm.**

