

St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

November 8, 2017

In Attendance:

Arsenault, Sr. Mae	Carey, Pat	Glasgow, Mary Alice
Beyea, Dianne	Carvell, Trinda	Howe, Marilyn
Burns, Fr. Owen	Connors, Michele	Mike MacDonald
Brown, Sandra	Ellis, Wendy	Stroud, Anne

Absent:

Doherty, Bob Johnson, Kayla

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Pat Carey.

The opening prayer was led by Sr. Mae Arsenault.

A presentation about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) was given by Jackie Beckingham. Jackie and Alan Beckingham are the coordinators of this ministry at St. Mark's. Please refer to the notes of Jackie's talk, which have sent to Council members. The following additional points were made:

1. There are currently three candidates in our parish.
2. RCIA teams include both "parish" sponsors, and a "personal" sponsor for each candidate.
3. "Personal" sponsors must be baptised Catholics who are practising their faith.
4. The RCIA team meets with candidates and sponsors every Tuesday beginning in late September and concluding with Pentecost Sunday. Retreats are also held.
5. Following the dismissal of candidates at mass, the candidates and team members meet to reflect upon the Word that they have heard.
6. "Personal" sponsors, along with the whole team, are revitalized by their RCIA experience.
7. On Jackie's "wish list": more parishioners willing to be "matched" with those entering the RCIA program. Friendship is a powerful influence.

The minutes of the October 11, 2017 meeting of Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), were approved on a motion by Sr. Mae Arsenault, and seconded by Trinda Carvell.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

1. Revision of Parish Information Booklet: Update: Wendy has assembled the basic information required for a bookmark and will obtain a new photo of the church building. The bookmark will then be created using a graphic design program.
2. Appointment of PPC ministry liaisons: Update: Anne had circulated a list via e-mail of those ministries without a PPC liaison. All the positions have now been filled, and an updated list was distributed via e-mail.
3. Appointment of a second youth member to PPC: Update: Wendy indicated that she has some potential members in mind, but has not yet approached them.
4. Replacement for Bill Lawlor: Pat informed Council that Mavis Drummond has resigned from PPC in order to focus on her other commitments; therefore, we now require two replacement members. Both Bill and Mavis were scheduled to complete their terms in 2018. Anne suggested that when we approach prospective members, we emphasize that they are only being asked to make a six month commitment. Of course, they are welcome to offer for a three year term when elections

Minutes by Anne Stroud.

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are held during May of 2018. Current Council members are asked to identify and approach prospective members prior to our December PPC meeting. If a parishioner indicates that they are interested in serving on Council, please e-mail their name to Pat.

5. The Alpha Program: Update: Fr. Owen Burns: The leadership team for Alpha has not yet met. St. Joseph's Parish in Saint John plans to offer an Alpha Program. It is anticipated that St. Mark's Parish can partner with St. Joseph's Parish, so that Alpha sessions may be offered at various times and be open to parishioners from both parishes.

New Business:

1. Format and time of December PPC meeting: Council agreed to commence our meeting at 6:30pm on December 13, and finish at 7:30pm in order to share food and fellowship with the members of the Liturgy Ministry. Members are asked to bring appetizers or desserts to share.
2. Invitation to Jean MacDonald to speak about the new Refugee Committee at St. Mark's at the December PPC meeting: Council agreed to invite Jean to speak to us about the newly formed Refugee Committee. Members would also like an update concerning the Syrian Refugee Initiative.

Updates re: Parish Ministries:

1. **Peru Committee:** Anne circulated copies of an e-mail received by the Peru Committee from Sr. Verna Aucoin, providing information about challenges faced by the Sisters of Mercy in the communities of Puerto Eten and Huarmey in Peru. Anne also reminded Council members about the annual Peru Committee public sale of books, DVDs and CDs being held on Monday, November 13. Parishioners will also have the opportunity to shop after the masses on the November 11/12 weekend. The sale has been advertised in church bulletins, The Valley Viewer, KV Style, The Telegraph-Journal and The New Freeman and by distributing posters in the KV and Saint John areas. The Peru Committee will also be raffling a beautiful quilt created and donated by Nola McGinn.
2. Little Rock Scripture Study (LRSS): Marilyn provided an update. This program consists of structured scripture study, conversational prayer and a wrap-up DVD lecture. This program was initially selected by the Diocese of Saint John and it has been offered in our parish for many years. Sessions are currently offered on Monday evenings (13 participants) and Wednesday mornings (8 participants). LRSS has experienced significant financial challenges over the last couple of years due to the strong American dollar. Each study requires the purchase of a DVD for the group, and a commentary and study guide for each participant. Participants currently pay \$25 for each study. The cost was originally set at \$20. Pat asked whether a comparable program is available in Canada, and Marilyn stated that it is not. She has searched for alternative studies, but found only basic studies, which are not suitable for an experienced group. Fr. Burns encouraged Marilyn to continue offering LRSS, and indicated that he does not have an issue with the parish helping to subsidize the costs. It was also mentioned that St. Dunstan's Parish in Fredericton offers LRSS, so there may be an opportunity to swap studies.

Divine Renovation: At our October meeting, Council agreed to read and discuss *Divine Renovation* as part of our mandated continuing education. PPC members discussed the *Introduction* of the book.

The meeting was called to a close by Pat Carey.

The closing prayer was led by Marilyn Howe.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at in Room 1.

Minutes by Anne Stroud.

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