

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting 1-18-2024

In attendance: Father Paul Buchanan, Robert Rodite, Kimber Zappia, Bethsy San Millan, Adrianna Echeverri, Cam Tracy, Rose Williams, Peter Barthelemy, Bob Chaplin, Thomas Sims, Jon Hamilton, Brittany MacAlester

Unable to attend: Chris DeRego, Catherine Hefner, Charlie Scott

Chairing this meeting: Peter Barthelemy

Opening prayer-R. Rodite

Minutes from 10/2023 council meeting reviewed and confirmed approved.

Topics brought to pastoral council:

1. Suggestion box- It was brought to council inquiry as to the use of suggestion box for parish.

Father reported that, in his experience (and his reports from other parishes), suggestion boxes had not been productive for use/feedback. He states that boxes are often used for less productive anonymous complaints. Instead, Father encourages open dialogue communication from parishioners to himself, members of council and/or parish staff. This will allow for response and discussion. He welcomes all feedback. Reminds pastoral council to act in such a role as to collect parishioners concerns and, encourages council to be more visible. Father reminds the council we are in the process of obtaining name tags for pastoral council members to assist in this cause. This may promote better exposure so that the council may serve more visibly that function. Father reminds us that there are numerous names of contact and listed phone numbers/emails in the bulletin for any concerned parish member to be able to reach out if needed.

2. Midnight mass -It was brought to Council that there was inquiry as to expressed interest in Christmas midnight Mass. Father reviews the history of midnight Mass stating that traditionally in the Church, the earliest Christmas Mass celebration could be experienced was at the time of midnight. There was no need for fasting before this mass for communion. In later years, the Church went through changes and now there are available vigil Masses with allowance of 1 hour fast prior to communion. So, for these reasons, midnight Mass became less commonplace within the Catholic churches. He explains that for practical reasons, it is difficult for the choir and priest to perform a midnight Mass and then have another on Christmas day at 7:30am. Father states it is beautiful, and he has nothing against performing a midnight Mass but has no plans in implementing one currently.

3. Spiritual needs of staff (How do we ensure they are taken care of? How do we ensure they are continuing to grow personally and not getting burnt out. Anything the Parish Council can do to support this?) - Father reports that he is contemplating a spiritual retreat for QOA staff. Additionally, Father reports his ongoing and open communication with staff regarding their workload/spiritual needs and relays appropriate staff pay for their positions. Council member mentions that in addition to Father tending to the QOA staff, us (as a parish and council), may also assist the staff when needed.

4. Review of parish registration form -It was suggested to review verbiage of our on-line Registration form for QOA, as there had been questions of verbiage that may need changed--- it possibly may be perceived as "negative". Examples of reported areas of concern included the

registration form's line of "head of household". Another area perhaps needing modification mentioned was the financial commitment statement. This form predates Father Paul's pastoral leadership and he stated he is open to modifying to a softer language. Father encourages the need that the mention of tithing continues to be on form, as there is an obligation to assist with the Church. Softer wording is welcomed. C. Tracy and K. Zappia offered to lead these changes.

5. Status of sound system upgrade-Father reports ongoing communication with the sound system company to solve ways to improve the sound quality in the church. It has been proposed that the speakers may be installed too high. Thus, new speakers are going to be installed lower to the level of the congregation to assist in better sound quality. If this does not resolve the issue, further solutions will be sought.

Father Paul's and topics for Discussion:

1. Father's note in recent bulletin-To further clarify the note from the Holy See, regarding the Pope's recent document regarding same sex marriages and what the Pope's document means, Father explains that he wrote clarification in the recent church bulletin. In case parishioners have questions, he intentionally placed in written form to have for review.

2. Receiving Communion-Father mentions the importance of an upcoming review on how to receive holy communion properly, as he mentions that there have been many incidences of the host falling on ground during communion. He will review the manner received, both on tongue and hands.

3. Prayerful sanctuary- Father mentions the importance of keeping a prayerful atmosphere in sanctuary before Mass. He mentioned that now that Covid (isolation/minimal social outings) has tapered off, the need for chatting before mass is less needed. Reverence in this atmosphere of the church is encouraged for a quiet space and is a time of reflection. This announcement to come soon as Lent approaches. Announcement to be made the Sunday before Lent.

Reminder of next month's meeting 2/15/2024

Closing prayer-K. Zappia