

## **Pastoral Council Minutes: June 12, 2017**

**Members Present:** Msgr. R. Morris, B. Langley, C. Creamer, S. Helton, K. Bentley, T. Goodrich, B. Atherton, G. Green, E. Luker, A.M. Hoobin

**Absent:** J. Hlvacka, M. Ustick,

**Religious Clergy, Nuns and Laity Present:** J. Marino

7:00 p.m. Prayer by Msgr. Morris

Minutes from the April Meeting were read and corrected. Motion to approve was passed.

**Election of Parish Council Officers:** Positions for the 2017 Pastoral Council were filled by silent ballot. The members present elected C. Creamer as Facilitator, Keith Bentley as Vice Facilitator, and B. Langley as secretary.

### **Old Business Concerning Parish Pastoral Plan**

- ***Coral Heights/Resource Center:*** Monsignor Morris expressed his gratitude to all who have assisted with the improvement of the Coral Heights Property, which the parish voted to name the **Siena House**. He shared that Sister Rosamunda drafted suggestions for a master plan for use of the house that included the following:
  - The Sheriff's department may offer assistance in the front corner of the house
  - Catholic Charities may offer counseling and other services in the back bedroom
  - Conferences and neighborhood association meetings could be held in the 3<sup>rd</sup> bedroom
  - Tables and chairs are anticipated to be placed in the main living area
  - The back left area of the house may be used as storage for tables, lamps, etc.
  - A food pantry is anticipated to be placed in the back living area
  - Storage of clothing/ household goods is slotted for room #9

Monsignor Morris also suggested that space in the Siena House could be used for the Sheriff's movie nights (the Friday evening prior to St. Catherine volunteers distributing food to Coral Heights families on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month), to provide a place for St. Catherine's nurses, for tutoring and bible study, and envisions some type involvement with Pinellas County Schools.

- ***Review of the results of the 2017 Parish Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey and formation of Smart Goals from the results***

Approximately 500 parishioners completed the DMI in years 2015 in 2017. Based on the data from the results of the DMI, St. Catherine Siena Parish is doing better in forming disciples than other parishes nationally who participated in the study. *Strengths of St. Catherine of Siena that evolved from the survey:*

- Data indicated that in 2017, a higher percentage of younger people participated in the survey than in 2015.
- Also significant were that 75% of parishioners indicated they would recommend our parish to a friend and 73% would recommend our pastor to a friend.
- Of those responding, 57% felt that our parish helps them grow spiritually as a Catholic.
- 59% of parishioners indicated that St. Catherine's has helped them grow spiritually as well as connected them to our Catholic community by offering vibrant Sunday masses and making them feel welcomed and accepted.
- Notable is that 34% in 2017 vs. 29% in 2016 of parishioners felt that they are growing as a disciple of Christ.

Survey data also suggested that, as a parish, St. Catherine has *areas of opportunity in which we can improve our Christ centered mission to become intentional disciples*

- Items targeting sharing our faith and extending opportunities to others to take part in the Masses at St. Catherine's received the lowest scores on the survey:
- *27% of parishioners indicated that our parish equips them to have conversations with others*

- 28% of parishioners reported they had shared a personal witness story with another, and
- 19% reported they had invited someone to join them for Mass

Monsignor Morris recommended tying in information yielded from the 2017 *Parish Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey* with our current Parish Priority Plan to develop a Smart Goal that would address opportunities for growth.

- Pastoral Council members identified Parish strengths of creating a welcoming environment and helping parish members grow spiritually as falling under Parish Priority 1, *Forming Intentional Disciples*. Opportunities for growth focused on inviting someone to Mass and being able to share a personal witness story that the Council determined as relating to Priority 3, *Connecting Our Faith to the Family and Community*. Goal Point Persons for Priorities 1 and 3 will be Sherri Briand and Father Marino, respectively.
- Key audiences targeted to benefit from focus on Discipleship and sharing of personal witnessing include absent Catholics, Young Adults, Families with Young Children, and stagnant Catholics.
- Monsignor Morris shared that the message we want to impart to St. Catherine parishioners is Pope Francis' advice from the Joy of the Gospel that we "discover our own relationship with God and grow in it."
- Use of social media was designated as an effective means of reaching out to parish members to provide an avenue for networking in the parish, inform parishioners of faith formation opportunities, and provide a way of connecting with ministries and others in the parish. Currently, Chris Pelletier is developing the parish Face book page, Web site, and Twitter account.
- Council members suggested ways of building spiritual growth such as Catholic devotionals, studying scripture, spiritual retreats (e.g. Alpha, Emmaus, and Christ Renews His Parish), and Eucharistic Adoration.

### **Pastor's Remarks and Announcements**

Monsignor Morris shared that the first week of July, he would be attending a convocation of bishops in Orlando in which 197 dioceses in the country would be discussing how to implement Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel in their own parishes. He suggested that we consider a way of incorporating the Joy of the Gospel into our pastoral plan. Additionally, Monsignor Morris challenged the Council to think of ways to inspire Catholics to return to the church, to discover strategies for involving families with young children in activities throughout the parish and to share our personal witness without proselytizing.

Next meeting: August 14th 2017 at 7:00 pm in Resurrection Hall, Room 10. Adjournment and closing prayer was by Msgr. Morris at 8:45 pm.

Minutes respectfully taken and submitted by Beth Langley