

Pastoral Council Meeting October 9, 2017

Members Present: Msgr. R. Morris, C. Creamer, S. Helton, K. Bentley, B. Atherton, J. Hlavacka, M. Ustick, A.M. Hoobin

Absent: B. Langley, T. Goodrich

Religious Clergy, Nuns and Laity Present: J. Marino, Sister Kathleen

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

Minutes from the September Meeting were not read. The Secretary will present them at November Meeting.

Old Business

- **Parish Pastoral Plan: Next Steps** – Msgr. Morris outlined plans for the next steps in fulfilling the Pastoral Plan which addresses the need to implement a Social Media agenda. Chris Peletier was named the point person for leading the project and will assemble a small committee to explore further uses of Facebook, develop and enhance the present website and explore the use of Instagram. Both C. Peletier and R. Pettit were recognized for their outstanding work in the past for developing the use of the internet in communicating Parish information. At the present time, the Parish is linking up with Diocesan Publishing, the first step in expanding the Parish's social media capabilities. S. Briand has increased High School attendance in the Faith Formation Program to 23 attendees. According to Fr. Marino, combined with the Alpha project, these projects are gradually expanding and appear to be very successful.
- **Siena House Update:** Sister Rosamunda, Elaine Luker, Jack Frandeka, and Mary Blythe met with the Sheriff's Dept. in a training session informing them with salient points as to how to safely approach people by going door to door. This small group will then begin meeting each individual household in the Coral Heights Community seeking to identify the needs of the families living in the area.
- **Forming Intentional Disciples:** Msgr. Morris addressed the crisis in Puerto Rico caused by Hurricane Maria. Governor Rick Scott of the State of FL announced the state should expect about a million to a million and half refugees from the island to be brought to Florida. The state's plan is to distribute families throughout the state. In light of this action, Msgr. Morris is exploring possible ways in which SCOS will be able to help these displaced families. He suggested the Siena House has space to offer shelter to a family or families and asked the Pastoral Counsel for their ideas and opinions about using Siena House for this purpose. It was unanimous that SCOS should help the families and Siena House would make an excellent *transitory residence* for a family. Further exploration of the legal aspects and other possibilities need to be discussed on how to care and offer help to the families.
- **Caring for Our Common Home:** Sister Kathleen reported that the money generated from space sales for "Junk in the Trunk" is to be used for the purchase of trees to improve the environment.
- **Connecting our Faith to Family and Community:** Fr. Marino indicated all projects are going well. Date Night attendance has fallen slightly.
- **Parish Twining:** K. Bentley had an exploratory meeting and lunch with a person who did missionary work in Tanzania. Ideas were exchanged about Parish Twining, what it entails, questions of implementation, various specific projects to undertake (like providing clean water to residents) and possibilities for our parish. K. Bentley noted that the trip to Columbia, S.A. was not a feasible option at this time.
- **V Encuentro:** A Deacon from Puerto Rico is working with the Spanish speaking Coral Heights group at the Siena House. It is hoped a follow-up project for Alpha might merge by participating and working with this group in the future. A summary of what the Alpha experience will bear as fruit, according to Msgr. Morris, is Alpha's emphasis and focus asking "What is my relationship with God"; followed by "How do I evangelize this relationship?" It is hoped that work at the Siena House, such as establishing tutoring

sessions in ESOL, addressing family needs and working with the community will be an outcome of the Alpha experience.

New Business

- **Convocation for Catholic Leaders “Living as Missionary Disciples:** Msgr. Morris prefaced this notion with a statement focusing on how important missionary work is to the Church. By addressing “How do I give to the World”, it is hoped this Christian aspect of a Christian life would be addressed by the Parish. One way to accomplish this might be for the Parish to reach out to Puerto Rico and its communities; He went on to say, at the recent Priest’s convocation he attended, the point was made that we as Catholics are dealing with a polarized world. The perspective of our overall culture has changed and people are being drawn away from God. Political language is being brought into the Church for the first time. According to Fr. Matt Malone, the speaker, such publications as *First Things*, a conservative church publication, and *Common Wheel*, a progressive Church publication, are examples of the changing cultural phenomena. The need to begin engaging in dialogs, so that the different perspectives can be voiced in a rational manner, has become apparent. In other words we need to sit down and discuss how we as Catholics maintain a Christian Community centered in Christ in the Gospel. With the infiltration of the political orientations that has infiltrated the Church, we as a Parish need to be sensitive and take notice of this cultural change.
- **Parish Projects:**
 - Legacy Display Case- Presently implemented and exhibiting the history of SCOS in Resurrection Hall.
 - Front Signage – New lettering is being made for the sign.
 - Eagle Scout Project – A special thanks of gratitude is given to Gary Riely(?) who cleaned up the fallen trees and shrub in the back of the church property.
 - Msgr. Morris noted the Church Offices are in need of attention, as space is becoming limited in the rectory location.
- **Care of Person with Dementia:** Pat Meyer, R.N. will deliver information on the care of persons with dementia on Saturday, October 21st in Resurrection Hall.

Reports

- **The Discipleship Commission** will be addressed more readily after S. Briand accomplishes her projects.
- **Faith Formation Commission**, under S. Briand, has moved forward with great strides. Everyone is very encouraged by the results.
- **Justice Commission/F.A.S.T.** Sister Kathleen indicated a petition is circulating addressing past felons’ need to have their rights as a citizen returned to them.
- **Pastor’s Remarks and Announcements:** Msgr. Morris thanked everyone on the Counsel for their input and contributions as advisors. He reflected on the success of the dinner for the refugees and some thought is being given to a possible Thanksgiving Dinner for the group. John Ustick’s ordination and first Mass as Deacon was celebrated by the Parish with great joy. The Mass was celebrated by Deacon Ustick’s son, Fr. Anthony Ustick and assisted by Deacon John. This Father and Son celebration left a lasting imprint on the hearts of all attending.

Next meeting: November 13th 2017 at 7:00 pm in Resurrection Hall, Room 10. Adjournment and closing prayer was by Sister Kathleen at 8:45 pm.

Minutes respectfully taken and submitted by Sonia Helton