

**St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council  
Meeting Minutes**

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**April 25, 2017**

**Attendees:** Ray Traube, Alice Long, William Countess, Nikki Gorski, April Holdun, Martine Uveges, Herman Bush, Eleanor Fisher, William Bankert, Deacon Jim Sullivan, Fr. Jack Ward, Larry Shannahan, Fr. Jaime Garcia

**Absent:** *Patrick Perkins (excused)*

**The Meeting Came to Order at:** 7:03

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Jack lead with the Lord's Prayer

**Approval of Minutes:** Nikki motioned, Herman 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes approved.

**MINISTRY REPORTS:**

**Faith Formation:** Ice Cream social this afternoon with the elementary school kids. Home schooled ended this week as well. Faith formation is finished. 1st Communion May 6 & 13. 75 kids. 5/21 ends Children's Liturgy of the Word. May 7 ends Confirmation mass 5/20/2017. 52 kids.

Girl scouts went camping in Camp Conowingo last weekend. No up-coming events.

**Latino Community:** Fr. Jaime reported. Meeting yesterday with Bishop Mark Brennan. Visited with Leah, new Rep for the Hispanic community. Provided report for all activities done here among the Hispanic Community. Increase in Spanish mass attendance. Working on getting the 3<sup>rd</sup> parish on board. We are only parish with large Spanish community.

5<sup>th</sup> encounter discussed. Looking to get some small groups involved with adding more evangelization. Patrick Perkins and Larry Shannahan will assist. Will take about 4 years to complete. Want to use the family as the nucleus of the group. Framework would be to gather a small group together to "build a church in the community". Looking to use SFdS as the model. Starting with the Hispanic community and will blend in the rest of the congregation. There is only 1 youth group now that covers both communities. We are working towards the supreme goal of integrating our congregation as 1 large family. The Latino community is growing but the Anglo community is stagnant. Looking to introduce idea in the next few weeks.

Holy week: Procession of the Palms on Palm Sunday. Great response. Then the Procession Virgin of the Sorrows was led around the Stone Chapel on Good Friday. Very inspiring and may try to bring this into the Worship Center next year.

The "Christ Life" seminar to be possibly used to help grow the Anglo community. Good interactive tool. Will have dinner (or snack) to view the video then break up the audience into groups of 8 to discuss. 3 parts: 1: Discovering Christ (has 5 sessions – 5 weeks of discussion). Part 2: Following Christ

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(has 5 sessions). Package contains the DVD's and the booklets. Fr. Jaime will train the facilitators. After the process is complete in the parishes, we will look to introduce this into the home.

**Liturgy:** Holy week services went well.

Youth Band: Rob Henry reported. Have a group of kids that plan to play at the Confirmation mass. Have winds, brass, and strings (including guitars).

Parish picnic will try to have both choruses and the band (?) involved.

Will have a re-training of the Eucharistic Ministers and the Lectors. This will include theory as well as the details of the positions. Will bring back the "Ministry" to these groups.

**Parish Life:** See attachment from Diane Lewis

**Service:** Bill Countess, report attached. We are the only ministry doing a "Let's do Lunch" program.

**Stewardship:** The Latino mass collection has gone up quite a bit. Attendance is up as well. The "Take the next step" program is helping to raise the collections.

Need more counters – 5 teams of 3, 1 team of 4 count the weekend collection. Count once every 5 weeks. Looking for about 2 or 3 candidates – give name to Deacon Jim or Nikki.

**Youth:** Eleanor: Past events: did the Stations of the Cross. Stuffed over 2000 eggs. Received 150 eggs from Texas Roadhouse. Good Friday Stations of the Cross was awesome. 4/15/17 Easter egg hunt: 212 children + parents. Added hot dogs and baked goods.

Upcoming: 4/30 – Youth group (middle school – going to Holy Spirit to explore desire of a youth group. Looking to do a game night

5/13 International Rosary and crowning in Kilduff Hall

5/13 game night at Holy Spirit

6/10: Open Mic night (Kilduff Hall) Youth band is organizing the gathering.

6/10: Yard Sale 9am – noon : fund-raising for NCYC.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Bingo volunteers are appreciated. Updated Bingo list was mailed but will be added to these minutes. The event starts @ 6:30 and ends around 11. Can volunteer for all or a part of the evening. Always need help in the kitchen.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** Parish picnic 8/27 after the 11am mass. The Knights will provide hot dogs & hamburgers. Bring your own food and drink.

STAND training (worthy of the call; Shield the Vulnerable). Refreshers are needed every 4 years. The Knights have to take the required certification (from the Archdiocese).

2<sup>nd</sup> person to the Pastoral Council: Larry Shannahan appointed as chair of the Evangelization committee. **See handout.** Want to entice the parents of the kids that attend faith formation to become more active in the parish. Includes the pre-school parents. Must formulate a plan to reach out to the parents of all of our kids in faith formation to come back to the church. Reach out from the Church. High School faith formation: trying to show the kids in the confirmation program so they feel excited to join our parish and participate in the parish life. Nikki and Larry will work together on this.

How do we reach out to the new families in Abingdon? Many new apartment and townhome communities are open in the Abingdon area alone. Rob Hardy (& Pam) will work with the kids at the front desk to begin a Facebook promotion to attract the new residents to our church.

Why are the parents bringing their kids to faith formation but not attending our Church themselves on a regular basis? Will look to create a survey to explore this.

The Evangelization committee will also look into submitting articles for the local newspapers.

FlockNote.com: viewed presentation. Being used at Prince of Peace. Since it's inception, there is an increase in participation at the church and is reaching a larger population. Father Jack wants us to implement Flock Notes - needs approval from the council. Rebecca is willing to start the process. She will come here for all our masses to demonstrate how it works. The tool is free for the Parish. Fr. Jaime trained with Rebecca on how to use the tool.

Motion to implement FlockNotes was voted and unanimously approved by the Council. Want to implement before June. Need to let parishioners know to bring their phones to mass. Will put a card in the pews to show how to use the program.

Keeping accurate statistics on how many parishioners attend mass each week. Counts right now are not very accurate. The 11am mass is the least accurate since there is inconsistency in the ushers for that mass.

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Recommend that we rekindle the welcoming committee at least once per quarter to reach out to the new parishioners and see if we can engage them into a more active parish life. Likely to have on a Saturday night. Looking to appoint Wayne Long. Alice Long created the marketing piece.

Would like to bring back the Social Committee to bring some fun to our parish and create some passion to our parish life.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Larry Shannahan appointed as chair of the Evangelization committee

Motion: Larry becomes a voting member (as a Rep) by Fr. Jack; second by Martine. Passed.

**GOOD OF THE COUNCIL:**

Received the bill from the plumber and will notify the water department quickly to let them know about the broken pipe. May ask the parishioners to donate to our maintenance dept. to help defray this cost.

We will have Council badges. Fr. Jack says it's a good idea. See who is in attendance and cooperate with each other on who stands at the back of the church for meet the people.

**Pray for Vocations!**

**Closing Prayer from Father Jack: The Bishop Romero prayer.**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 9:03pm**

Respectfully submitted,



April Holdun, Secretary