

St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2018

Attendees:

Jim Wilson	X	Herman Bush	X	William Countess	X	Eleanor Fisher	X
Nikki Gorski	X	Iris Hernandez	X	Alice Long	X	Patrick Perkins	
Larry Shannahan	X	Ray Traube	X	Deacon Jim Sullivan	X	Fr. Jack Ward	
Fr. Jaime Garcia	X	Martine Uveges	X	William Bankert	X		

The Meeting came to order at: 7:01pm

Opening Prayer: Hail Mary led by Jim Wilson

Approval of Minutes: Larry motioned to approve the August meeting minutes; Ray seconded.

OLD BUSINESS:

Faith Fest on Sept 16: Larry commented that the 3 bands were good, though expensive, the tents were full all day, and the Mass and the whole day was a wonderful experience. Since the tent of 11 parishes only had parishioners come through, it was not worth the \$4,000 paid by St Francis de Sales (SFdS) parish. Deacon Jim commented that confessions were heard for all except 15 minutes, the rosary was said every half hour, and the Adoration tent was full with people even kneeling on the hard ground, though it was hard to pray being so close to the bands. The Blessing tent was the best, where Deacon Jim (and others) gave people blessings for all kinds of needs for 4 hours. Iris liked the prayers and Adoration throughout the day. She had a negative experience at the check-in table, where she was unable to be a volunteer and had to listen to negative comments about SFdS. Ray wondered what the purpose was for the day. Nikki thought the layout could be improved to find new parishioners. Larry thought the 3-parish picnic was wonderful and may be better than a Harford County Faith Fest.

Donut Sundays: Herman provided 7 boxes of 50 donut holes each for after the 4 Sunday Masses. Fr. Jack would like to have the donut holes every Sunday except when there is another event or a monthly Donut Sunday scheduled. The Evangelization budget can accommodate this ~\$200 monthly expense. Larry said the Evangelization Committee thought some chairs in the Narthex would be removed, so the donut social would be more inviting. Deacon Jim does not want to remove chairs, as they are frequently used at Masses. Since the chairs are falling apart, he wants to purchase 40-50 replacement chairs soon, to avoid any possibility of injuries. Perhaps 3 high top tables could be purchased for the donuts. Jim W suggested this discussion be taken offline with Fr. Jack.

TV in the Narthex: Deacon Jim reported that Fr. Jaime is getting an electrician contractor, who has done work for the parish for years at a great rate, to run wires to hook up the two TVs, that Jim W purchased, on the back wall in the Narthex. The content and who will coordinate information on the TVs will be further discussed at the Oct meeting.

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5 Year Plan: Jim Wilson laid out a schedule to begin in October drafting a 5 Year Plan with input from the ministry leaders, establish an Elections Committee in November, gather feedback and finalize the 5 Year Plan by January, and have a retreat in February for the Parish Council and Staff. Jim W will distribute in October an electronic version of an old 5 Year Plan that can be used as a format for a new plan. The expectation is that council members will start a dialog with ministry staff and gather the feedback into a good format to share preliminarily, even on the parish web site, in November / December. The 5 Year Plan should be finalized in January to review at the February retreat.

Elections: Ray confirmed that the term dates on the Members List are correct. Bill Countess, who was the Elections Committee last year, can do this again this year, and Ray offered to help Bill. The Elections Committee ran from the end of Nov 2017 to Jan 2018, which is a good schedule for this coming year. It is desirable to have both outgoing and incoming Pastoral Council Members at the Feb 2019 meeting.

Pastoral Council Retreat: Jim Wilson suggested that, according to the Pastoral Council By-Laws, a one-day retreat should be held in Feb 2019. This would be for team building, where the morning could include activities to remind Council members of our spiritual job, and the afternoon could focus on each ministry group and resources needed to prepare a plan that can allow us to work together on where we are going in the future.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

Connections: No report

Faith Formation: No report

Latino Community: No report

Liturgy: No report

Parish Life: Larry Shannahan reported:

- Bingo – Last year bingo raised \$24,700. Bingo revenue has increased 30% since July 2018 due to bingo being promoted in multiple places. People are needed to help work Bingo. Jim W encouraged everyone to invite parishioners to come and help at Bingo; it is a great social and family event. Larry said 20 people are needed to work at each bingo.
- Sept 30 – The Knights of Columbus (KofC) will have a table inviting men to join the Knights; 6 new members joined after the last membership drive. The KofC Ladies will do a Liturgical Minute before all Masses inviting ladies to join the Ladies Auxiliary.
- Nov 3 – The KofC will sponsor a Memorial Mass.
- Nov 10-18 – The KofC will sponsor a 9-day Novena for Life
- Nov 17 – The KofC Ladies will hold their Holiday Luncheon Bingo including 25 gift baskets.

Service: Bill Countess reported for August activities (see report attached):

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- Our Daily Bread - 54 casseroles delivered Sun, Sept 9
- Outreach: 141 clients assisted, 152 food bags provided, 62 families financially assisted
- Let's Do Lunch – 50 lunches distributed in August
- Blood Drive: The September goal was 35 pints of blood, and 36 pints were collected, which will save 108 lives, according to the Red Cross
- Homeless Shelter – Bill spoke with Rose Pollis. SVDP assists with the Homeless Shelter on the 20th and 21st of each month. Diane Lewis and the youth make and usually cover the cost of the dinner. There are 3 teams that cover evenings and 2 teams that cover breakfast. Rose advised it would be nice to have 3 teams for breakfast. Currently no volunteers cover nights, but that is not usually a problem, because there is always an employee there at night.

Stewardship: Jim Wilson provided the attached report. At the Sept 24th meeting of the Development Committee, three buckets were discussed to communicate parish funds: Weekly Collections, Capital Needs, and Legacy Giving. There will be an annual parish appeal in October. The initial rough estimate for capital needs is ~\$50k; this will be discussed further at the next meeting. A few pieces of literature were passed out and discussed for Legacy Giving.

Youth: Eleanor Fisher reported (see report attached):

- Oct 7 – The Youth Ensemble will be playing with the Children's Choir at the 11a Mass
- Oct 19 – Holy Hour – Fri, at 7p in the main church for SFdS, Prince of Peace, and Holy Spirit parishes with Bishop Brennan attending. Fr. Jaime explained that after the bilingual Holy Hour the youth and their parents will go to the Religious Education building, where a psychologist and other resources will be available to help families learn how to recognize and respond to unwanted sexual interactions. Bishop Brennan will be available following the Holy Hour in the church to respond to pre-written questions.
- Oct 27 – Trunk-or-Treat - Middle school youth will run the Boo Barn and activities in Kilduff Hall; High School youth will run the Haunted Hallway in the Education Building.
- Dec 2 – Christmas Around SFdS: A Journey to the Inn – at 7p, all choirs will participate. This family oriented event will have a reception with food and drinks in Kilduff Hall. A Give-a-way ornament is being considered. A planning meeting occurred on Sept 25 at 7p for the Knights of Columbus men and ladies with Choir Directors invited.
- Fr. Jaime and Nikki noted that both Trunk-or-Treat and Christmas Around SFdS events are evangelization opportunities. All Council members should be at both events; Council members should ask how they can be a part of many of the parish events.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Picnic 2019: Ray said a set time each year is being sought for a picnic with all 3 parishes. Suggested dates were Aug 25 and Sept 8. Jim W made a motion to have the 2019 Parish Picnic on Aug 25, and Nikki seconded.

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Council Corner: Jim W suggested that Council members write up a short report of what we are doing and discussing, such as outreach, Development Committee, or TVs in the Narthex, in a Council Corner section in the bulletin. Nikki reminded all of the Ministry Minutes in the past, such as 'What is Faith Formation'. Iris said that in previous years the Council identified a highlight at the end of the meeting to put in the bulletin's Council Corner. Nikki noted that events are communicated on Facebook and Flocknotes. Jim W will talk with Rebecca to coordinate Council communications in the bulletin and online avenues.

Maryland Catholic Conference: Deacon Jim said a person is needed to act as a liaison between the State of Maryland and the Maryland Catholic Conference. This person would need to take 2 hours of training and then assimilate information regarding bills in the state congress, such as Physician Assisted Suicide, and pass it on to the congregation.

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Jaime gave a blessing to all present

Meeting Adjourned by Jim Wilson at 8:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Uveges, Secretary