

**St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council**  
**Retreat Minutes**  
**March 2, 2019**

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**Attendees:**

|                     |   |               |   |                  |   |                    |   |
|---------------------|---|---------------|---|------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Jim Wilson          | X | Herman Bush   | X | Kathy Batdorf    |   | Madison Buddenbohn |   |
| Liz Gonzalez        | X | Nikki Gorski  | X | Alice Long       | X | Patrick Perkins    | X |
| Sally Raphel        |   | Isabel Sans   | X | Cynthia Santiago | X | Patty Smith        | X |
| Diane Traube        | X | Ray Traube    | X | John Young       | X | Dan Zankowitz      | X |
| Deacon Jim Sullivan |   | Fr. Jack Ward | X | Fr. Jaime Garcia | X | Martine Uveges     | X |
| Mary Bush           | X | Diane Lewis   | X | Sandy Gill       | X | Angie Rebbert      | X |

The outgoing and incoming Pastoral Council Members together with the priests and staff of St Francis de Sales Parish came together Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, for a spiritual retreat in the morning and a 5-year planning session in the afternoon. (See attached retreat agenda and notes for the spiritual retreat).

After partaking of light breakfast foods and getting to know a little about each other, such as several people have been members of St Francis de Sales (SFdS) for over 15 years, Fr. Jaime led the group in a spiritual retreat.

**SPIRITUAL RETREAT:**

After engaging everyone with a story about a Colombian coffee bean farmer and a burro, Fr. Jaime had various people read aloud from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12: 12-31 about a body having many parts. With Christ as the head, we all are parts of His one body, each bestowed with unique gifts to enliven the whole body.

Fr. Jaime reminded everyone that the mission of the Church is four-fold:

- 1) God is love
- 2) God loves us
- 3) God wants us to live with Him in Eternal Life
- 4) God wants us to be happy

This mission is the 'family business' of all of us as the Church, the one body of Christ. The way to implement our mission is through mercy. Fr. Jaime shared the corporal works of mercy,

- 1) To feed the hungry;
- 2) To give drink to the thirsty;
- 3) To clothe the naked;
- 4) To harbor the harborless;
- 5) To visit the sick;
- 6) To ransom the captive;
- 7) To bury the dead

and the spiritual works of mercy

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- 1) To instruct the ignorant;
- 2) To counsel the doubtful;
- 3) To admonish sinners;
- 4) To bear wrongs patiently;
- 5) To forgive offenses willingly;
- 6) To comfort the afflicted;
- 7) To pray for the living and the dead

We are all called to holiness, to show God's love, and to use our unique gifts to share God's mercy in corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Everyone broke into three smaller groups and shared thoughts on how we understand Christ's mission for the whole Church and for the community of SFdS and how each of us can contribute by using our unique gifts. Oh, and getting back to the coffee bean farmer and his burro, "Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you" (Psalm 55: 22).

**MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR SFDS:**

After being reminded of our mission, and in preparation for reviewing the 5 Year Plan for St Francis de Sales, there was a large group discussion to determine the major challenges for the future of SFdS. Many people shared their views of the current challenges, such as:

- How to get more people involved, and active in their spiritual mission with others
- How to adjust to having two priests shared among more than one parish
- How to deal with the overall church's sex scandal
- How to show concern and respect for the priests while realizing the parish is not solely defined by the priests
- How can everyone be present for one another, including ways for the Pastoral Council and Ministry Areas to listen and respond together to each other's needs
- How to bring more people to the parish, and how not to lose people already here
- How to change the 'me' to 'we' with other parishes, other people at Mass, and other people not at Mass
- How to create opportunities for people with their unique gifts, and how to continue to be a welcoming parish
- How to make Sunday Liturgy the best it can be, as it touches the most people each week
- How can the Ministry Areas be present in the Mystical Body and bring people to Sunday Mass
- How can people feel comfortable discussing their faith and integrate it into their lives

In summary, the group agreed to these top three overall challenges:

1. Go back to our roots and learn what we are to do by changing our thinking from 'me' to 'we'
2. Focus on enriching Sunday Liturgy (Mass, ushers, music, greeters, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers)
3. Focus on maintaining and increasing Mass attendance and parish involvement based on remembering our four-fold mission of the church

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**ST FRANCIS DE SALES 5-YEAR PLAN WALK THROUGH:**

In the afternoon session a representative from each Ministry Area presented their 5 Year Plan (see attached), and others offered their thoughts in response.

**Liturgy:** Patrick Perkins presented strategic objectives and specific goals. General discussion included:

- The Liturgy Committee of ~12 people will be meeting monthly or bimonthly and will institute pre-liturgical prayer for all ministers participating in the liturgy.
- Suggestions for the Music Ministry: increase choir members; set up grounds for accountability and communications; consider a contemporary Mass.
- The Worship Aid, with the readings/reflection, is good; it can be put in the bag for the homeless.
- Tidiness of Narthex and hallway is important.

**Faith Formation / Youth:** Diane Lewis and Angie Rebbert presented. General discussion included:

- Fr. Jack is very happy with this program; it is better than anywhere else.
- Diane focuses on Confirmation and High School students including service and ministries.
- Parents need to be involved and bring their children to Mass, service and ministries.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is being revamped to involve children more.
- It is a struggle to maintain a repository of information about students.
- Focus on Young Adults and Youth Leadership is lacking due to limited resources.
- Work is being done to include Spanish children with English children.
- Alpha Youth could be considered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year to aid with the involvement of young people.

**Stewardship:** Jim Wilson presented. General discussion included:

- What the parish does affects fund raising.
- The community needs to be aware of the parish needs and the financial situation to address the needs as well as ways they can give back to the parish.
- There should be a registry of people and their profession, which could be a way to identify those who could give of their time and talents to the parish.

**Parish Life:** Ray Traube, Cynthia Santiago, Patrick Perkins, and Diane Lewis presented. General discussion included:

- The Shadow Players' members participate in Liturgical performances which are partly evangelization to engage others to become part of the parish.
- Sharing and discussions like those at this one day Pastoral Council Retreat would be beneficial twice a year.

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- The Girl Scouts have many girls from multiple schools, such that there is no room for more. They do quarterly events with food donations. Diane said they want to introduce faith-based pins and badges.

**Connections:** Jim Wilson presented. Further discussions are needed to better understand the purpose and role of Connections and Evangelization and perhaps a restructuring of this pillar in the by-laws.

**Service:** Patty Smith presented. Jim W, Patty, and Kathy Batdorf to meet to better understand how to engage additional volunteers and meet the service needs of the parish.

**Latino Community:** Fr. Jaime commented. General discussion included:

- It should be reviewed to see where the Latino Community is needed and to be there.
- Some people volunteer very well for the Liturgy and with the Youth.
- Perhaps people of the Latino Community should be involved in other Ministry Areas and not isolated in a Latino Community.
- Perhaps this should be a more diverse and inclusive group to address the needs of the non-Anglo parishioners.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** The retreat wrapped up by 3p, and Fr. Jaime gave everyone his blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Uveges, Secretary