

St. James the Greater
Pastoral Council Meeting

April 13, 2011

Absent: Mark Mueller, Craig Baston

Question and Answer Session for prospective Pastoral Council

members: Council gave their input on their personal experience on Pastoral Council. Guidelines of purpose/workings/schedule of Pastoral Council explained. Characteristics of prospective members provided. Process and rationale of a true discernment explained. Potential Goals for Pastoral Council in the coming year presented.

Pastor's Comments:

With new Archbishop coming in, everything is being looked at; a number of collaboratives going on. Example, youth collaborative. Example, youth in athletics. Many people do not realize that CYO is not affiliated with the archdiocese.

Looking at what is the definition of youth ministry. How do we deal with young people to impart faith to them? Fr. Nolker went to the west side youth collaborative meeting. No conclusions made yet. All youth programs will be totally revamped. Looking at what the diocese provides as an umbrella, which can be used in each specific deanery or pastoral region. 20 focus groups so far. Timeline is that we will hear something in the next year.

The Archdiocese is also now in the early revisionning process for schools. Dr. Rigg has been appointed by Archbishop Schnurr, and given the task of creating a vision for all Catholic schools that can address everything from unified curriculum to finances to consolidations. May 3rd meeting planned: revisionning session for pastors and principals. May 10 meeting scheduled, which is for parish and school leadership. Father has asked Joe Rizzo and Lynne Archdeacon to be the parish leadership representatives; Christopher Kiley and Alice Sexton will be the school leadership representatives.

June 7: Meeting at LaSalle and June 8 at Moeller: Visioning sessions, open to anyone. This process is to look at what we expect from catholic schools,

governance (should catholic schools continued to be tied to parishes), curriculum. The timetable is that by fall we will have preliminary info. 2012-2013 school year will see implementation. The process is being guided by the research arm of Notre Dame. The archdiocese is not looking to take over our schools. They are looking at how we can survive.

New mass texts:

4 sessions on the mass in the fall. Music will change, because if the words change the music has to change.

Worship commission has put together an implementation plan for the fall. Making copies of some of the new prayers to be distributed to church organizations for them to use and become familiar with them. Will also be putting together a program for school and PSR.

Church renovation: narrowed down to 1 architect. Have decided on a footprint for the church. Overall it is cheaper to gut the church, than to repair, because the current church building needs new wiring, carpeting, paint, pews, lighting. Will be presented to PC and Finance council. Then looking to begin the process of asking the Archdiocese for approval to seek funding, and of informing the greater parish. 15-16 different ideas evaluated and “discerned”.

This week we are beginning to use the prayer for vocations at the end of mass. Vocation awareness is a priority.

The one canonical thing that PC does is to study the Finance Committee’s budget, and to approve. Normally is done in March, but some figures were incorrect and therefore had to be re-worked. We now have a budget, and it balances. Instead of a special meeting to approve the budget, Father Nolker asks would it be more time-efficient to email a cover letter and the proposed budget, let council review, and to respond via email? The school cannot publish tuition rates for next year until the budget is approved, so there is a bit of a time crunch. Fr. N has no free meeting time until the beginning of May. Some raised the concern that the email method would negate dialogue among the council. Council’s preference is to meet May 4th at 7pm, prior to discernment, and discuss/vote.

Evening prayer

Next Meeting: May 18, 2011

Respectively Submitted,
Jenny Gandenberger