

St Patrick Parish Pastoral Council

May 18, 2016

5:30 pm

Members Present: Margaret King, Janet Kenney, Mary Baker, Jan Coburn, Joe Gomes, Dominic McCamish

Members Absent: Jack McCoy, Fr. Frank, Robin Waters

Also Attending: Rod Stearn, Director of Catechesis and Faith Formation, Diocese of Lexington

I. Opening Prayer

II. April Meeting Minutes Review

- A. Motion made to approve minutes by Joe Gomes, second by Janet Kenney. All in favor.

III. Committee Reports

- A. Finance – The Finance/Maintenance Committee is now meeting quarterly. However, the council did receive an update on the Diocesan Annual Appeal. To date, we have 17 families that have pledged \$2,700.00.
- B. Liturgy – Janet Kenney reported that Nick Breiner is looking for additional singers and a backup accompanist. First Communion is this Sunday. Graduates will be acknowledged on Sunday, June 5. Confirmation will be held on June 19.
- C. Faith Formation – Dominic McCamish reported that there is a retreat scheduled for June 5 and June 6. A mission trip to West Liberty to assist with home improvements has also been planned for June 10 through June 12.
- D. Social Concerns – No report was available.

IV. Old Business

A. Strategic Plan

- 1. Survey Results – The results are still being compiled.

2. Faith Formation/Youth Group – John Karaus discussed the documents that Rod Stearn shared with the council. John noted that there are many resources available that discuss family catechesis. He will send some links to the council. Mary Baker spoke about several points from the reading material, including the importance of family involvement. Discussion followed.

V. New Business

A. Rod Stearn of the Diocese of Lexington joined our meeting to discuss our interest in whole family catechesis. Mr. Stearn stressed that no one can reach youth with only one random hour per week of instruction. He suggested a starting point of frankly discussing the resources, including financial, that our parish has available. The nuns are no longer an option, those days are gone and there is no “silver bullet”. Mr. Stearn said parishes have to think outside of their comfort zone. He noted that the deacons program is growing, but not quickly enough to address the concerns.

Mary Baker and John Karaus presented the challenges that we see in our church community. We want to engage the whole family, including parents and children. Janet Kenney asked how to expand past the religious education and academic portions of catechesis. Mr. Stearn noted that his office is looking at an overhaul of CCD and confirmation preparation.

Mr. Stearn referred to our reading materials and said that the Pope notes that the basic building block of the church is family. He also discussed the rate of divorce and broken homes. Dominic McCamish previously referenced the large number of students in the local school system that do not live with either biological parent.

The group discussed the RCIA program. Mr. Stearn said these programs should be a process of accompaniment. We need to remove divisions and approach things at a family level. The pattern of accompaniment has been shown to be effective for many years. Christ the King is working on programs right now. RCIA is the best model we currently have for whole family catechesis. Mr. Stearn noted that it has to be a gradual process. It can begin with just a positive personal interaction. People are evangelized by being around other people setting a good example. We all need to work on our own discipleship. Mr. Stearn said that the Law of Gradualness has been discussed by the last few Popes. We don't have to have giant steps, just progress.

Mr. Stearn told the group that there is a Convocation of Councils in October 2016. The diocese hopes to bring together all of the diocesan parish councils for a meeting.

The group thanked Mr. Stearn for his input and direction. Mr. Stearn exited the meeting.

B. The council discussed opportunities for more family interaction among the parish. Coffee and donuts during CCD was brought up as a chance to retain the parents during class. Mary Baker asked that all council members pray for intentions in the coming month.

C. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 15, at 5:30 p.m.

VI. With no additional items of business, meeting was adjourned with a prayer.