

TRI-PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

January 28, 2019

7:00 PM at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Present: Saint Joseph's Olney- Wayne Kocher, Cathy McDowell, Jeffrey Rosenberg, Stacey Steber, Jane Kocher, Kurt Ginder; Holy Cross Wendelin-Carl Will, Michael Kistner, Tony Kuenstler, Kevin Blank, Heather Blank, Cindy Blank, Sherry Geier, Gail Niebrugge; Saint Joseph's Stringtown-Donna Zwilling, Brian Ochs, Mary Zwilling, Pat Elie, Rita Damm; Fr. Mark Stec

Welcome-Opening Prayer: Act 2:42-47

To prepare for Monday's Meeting, Pastoral Council members were asked to read Chapters 9 and 10 of the book: *Rebuilt. The following is adapted from Rebuilt, pages 105-113*

Discipleship is all about simple steps. As spiritual leaders, we are to shape the path of discipleship for the people in our pews and set up environments and opportunities so followers of Christ move together in the same direction. Scripture and Tradition outline five major steps to clearly and consistently challenge people on the discipleship path. Any time we ask our parishioners to do anything, the challenges are, in some way, a reflection of these steps. In each, there is a synergy between how followers grow and how the church grows.

To illustrate the discipleship path, rely on the acronym S.T.E.P.S.

- **S: SERVE IN A MINISTRY OR MISSION**
 - Service is absolutely essential to growth as a follower of Jesus Christ. As a church, if we are to make an impact on our community and world, we need people who are committed to giving their time in service. We challenge the people in our pews to serve in ministry, which means serving at the parish and/or serving in missions.
- **T: TITHE OR GIVE**
 - The Church needs financial resources to function. Ministry costs money. Tithing challenges parishioners to look at all of their finances as belonging to God and to trust him. People need to give in their place of worship as an act of worship.
- **E: ENGAGE IN A SMALL GROUP**
 - We need friends in faith to grow closer to Jesus Christ. Small groups are where we provide pastoral care for our members and where our great church gets small. There, they can share their faith, learn from others' life experience, receive support, and help carry other's burdens.
- **P: PRACTICE PRAYER; CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS**
 - Prayer and the celebration of the sacraments help us grow in our love for God. Without them our souls can go malnourished. We invite parishioners to choose a time and place for personal prayer, helping them develop healthy habits such as scripture reading, eucharistic adoration, and the Rosary. We especially want to help parishioners find a full and active participation in the Eucharist.
- **S: SHARE YOUR FAITH THROUGH EVANGELIZATION**
 - Jesus told the apostles to go and make disciples. He sent them out into the world to lead people who are unconnected to God into a relationship with him. Faith grows when it is shared.

Liturgy and Worship

- Christmas Masses (thoughts/reflection)
 - (2018) 4:00 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 11:30 p.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
 - will reduce number of Masses for 2019
 - will consider seating capacity and availability of ministers
- Holy Week Schedule (2019)
 - Vigil-one Mass 2 1/2 hours, needs to start at 7:30-8:00 p.m.-baptisms must occur at the Vigil Mass, confirmations can occur at any Easter Mass, Easter Vigil Mass is not the most attended
 - Easter Sunday-two Masses will be offered
 - will consider seating capacity of the churches, persons to be baptized, and availability of ministers
 - Holy Thursday and Good Friday celebrations will be held at the same location
 - Fr. Mark will make the decision and publish those times
- Bishop's Response to Letters sent to him concerning our proposals for Tri-Parish Sunday were shared with Council members and discussed. The Mass schedule changes will be delayed (therefore will remain as is) until after the Diocesan Personnel Board meets again. It is anticipated that a decision could be made during the summer months and a new schedule could begin in early Fall.

Faith Formation

- RCIA-three individuals involved this year. Two will be confirmed, one baptized and confirmed
- Pastoral Associate (Caroline Trimble)-Submitted report for January 2019

Parish Blessings Schedule

- a. Monthly Blessing offered at all the parishes at select times.-see attached

Parish School of Religion/ Home-Based Catechesis

- a. 51 students enrolled in PSR and Home Based.
- b. There is diligent participation with most at or past half-way progress marker.
- c. Several parishes in the Diocese and outside our Diocese have inquired about the home-based catechesis with interest to follow our model.

FlockNote

- a. There are 246 signed up with 10 groups.
- b. Communication is going well with many participating, responding, and utilizing the resource.

Adult Faith Formation Education

- a. Women's Spirituality Group - SJO- 1st & 2nd Monday's.
- b. Spiritual Direction/Advisement appointments are increasing.
- c. Lent/Easter Season planning underway

St. Joseph Catholic School

- a. Working with the 7th graders- once to twice a week- on various topics of Religious interest.
- b. Prayer Services
- c. Confirmation Retreat

Community Life-Common Catholic Activities-nothing reported

Governance-Text Message Service-see above

Pastor-Implementation of the Next Step-see above

Closing Prayer: A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD-Diocese of Belleville

Next meetings:

Thursday, February 21-Stringtown, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, February 25-Olney, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 28-Wendelin, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 25-@ Olney-Tri-Parish, 7:00 p.m.