St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Church Narthex

Members in attendance: Fr. Michael, Dave Eberle, Bill Greinke, Ellie Hammond, Bob Mitchell, Pat Rossman, Mark Schmitz, Anna Marie Smetana, Jean Weaver and Mary Claire Weisensel. Also in attendance was Trustees Dennis Collins.

Not in attendance: Sharon Gierahn and Myra Fox

The opening prayer was led by Father Michael at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Jean Weaver to accept the December 12, 2023 minutes with approved changes and it was seconded by Mark Schmitz.

Discernment: Pat distributed the schedule for the nomination process and pointed out that we will need a few speakers in April to talk at the masses explaining what the PPC does. Also, Sharon Gierahn will run the Nomination Committee and Dennis will assist with the committee so we only need one more volunteer. Bob Mitchell stated that he would like to run again for the PPC. He will have to go through the process just like the new nominee's. Mary Claire will be off of the PPC this June as she will be leaving for college in the fall. Jean Weaver suggested that we should be looking for another teenager to be on the PPC. Pat suggested that if any of us know of a young person that might be interested in the position to put their name in the hat. Dennis suggested that maybe Mary Claire might know of someone who would be interested.

Parish Safety & Security Update: Anna Marie read a report from Dave. Interested committee members met for an orientation meeting to discuss policies and future meetings. A budget was submitted to the PFC for consideration. This was written before our cancelled meeting on January 9. There is an opportunity for a collaboration meeting on Saturday, Jan. 13 (this meeting was also cancelled due to weather) with the Racine Area Church Safety Network. This meeting was schedule to be held at Faith Bridge Church. At this time, the meeting will now be held on the 24th and Dave is working on scheduling a St. Rita meeting as per Bill.

Planning Committee: Handouts were distributed regarding the 5 Objectives (see attached) of the Strategic Plan from the last Planning Cmte meeting which was held on Jan. 2. These objectives align with the results of the fall survey. Council members were asked for comment. The next step will involve the creation of a task list to be developed with the input of key commission & committee members who ultimately will be responsible for their accomplishment. Anna Marie suggested that the PPC members be also invited to this meeting.

Next week will be the open house at the school and Mark suggested that the PPC members should stop by and make an appearance to show our interest in the school. Mary Claire said that her mom was at a school meeting, and she was asked to see if she could get PPC members to come to the open house. Dennis stressed how important it is for all of us to try and attend.
Mary Claire was assisting her mom at the high school religious ed classes and she asked the class on what they would like to do to become more active in the parish. Their response was to do

service projects like making a meal and taking it to a homebound person. Jean mentioned having some of our older parishioners work with these high school participant's as it would create a multi-generational activity that would be good for both.

Jean also mentioned that Zach Prideaux reached out that the school will be in need of volunteers for the basketball tournament to assist with concessions, taking tickets and so forth.

Bill also updated the PPC regarding the online Safe Environment course through the Archdiocese website in addition to attending a training session in person. The sessions are listed at the website.

Liaison Reports:

Stewardship: Ellie Hammond reported that they met last week. She reported that Stewardship is looking at bridging the gap between school and parish by reaching out to the school to compare their list of activities with that of Stewardship to see what support each may provide the other. Bill asked if any progress has been made on the PPC's November request of Stewardship to organize a meeting of all parish commissions, ministries and committees to address means to improve volunteer recruiting. Dennis reported that he meet with Debbie Sandonato and Marilyn Butler to discuss this matter. Dennis shared what St. Rita did long ago with Ministry Fairs. Debbie stated that they are reaching out to the Evangelization ministry to see if they could meet with her and Marilyn to formalize this matter. Dennis did give them the notes from Susan Willing's presentation last month regarding the ministry fair she attended in Milwaukee.

Human Concerns: Mark Schmitz reported that HC met on the 13th of December and they spoke of the Solidarity program that they have scheduled for January 7th. Mark and his wife attended but were somewhat disappointed in the low attendance for the program. Mark did state that there were a number of religious ed students in attendance. When left and went to their car Barb asked Mark "why are all these people in their cars?" Mark responded that they are waiting for their kids. Barb mentioned this would have been a perfect program for the parents to attend with their child.

Mark said there was a discussion led by Deacon Greg regarding the fact that there are many people lost in the justice system. Mark said it was very interesting to listen to the Deacon talk about what he does within the system. There is no proper attention given to the treatment of these defendants even in the courtroom and there is a general need for adult education; which Mark pointed out was this the responsibility of HC. The discussion did not go any further. Discussion among the PPC members ensued on that topic and it was generally agreed that the issue crosses several ministies including Formation and that there already are topical programs planned: Eucharist Revival (currently underway), Transformation Justice and Catholic Social Teachings. Jean mentioned that she has
attended a number of the programs put on by Human Concerns and that the attendance was low, not many adults. She also mentioned that Janine McCabe organizes a dinner club for a monthly adult couple & singles get-together. Bill mentioned that part of the Planning Committee's intent with their quarterly surveys, is to reach out to adult parishioners to see what they are interested in.

Prayer and Worship: Anna Marie reported that they mees next Tuesday (the 30th) and she'll be able to update us at the next meeting.

Formation: No report.

Parish Finance Council: Bob Mitchell reported that they are looking at internet security for the parish communications & data storage. They are also looking at new computers for the office and have 2 bids, but need 1 more. Dennis mentioned that Pattie is trying to find another internet provider. Verizon, Spectrum and others have been contacted but have not come through. A discussion followed.

It was also mentioned that Father must sign all contracts regarding the festival. A new amusement company is in the contract process and they want to do the accounting of the ride revenue. The PFC is overlooking this situation.

Bill asked if results of the 2023 Festival had yet been reported and how they compared to previous years. In 2023 the festival cleared $56,030.00; which is about $10K less than the previous year. A further discussion went on regarding festival plans/changes in view of the date change for 2024.

Building and Grounds: Dave Eberle reported that they have not had a meeting since the last PPC meeting but did purchase a used snow plow truck to plow the church grounds.

Pastor's Report: Father spoke on the re- alignment of the Racine Deanery.

Upcoming PPC Dates:

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The closing prayer was led by Father Michael at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Rossman
Secretary
St. Rita Parish - Parish Pastoral Council