

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2017, 7 p.m., Parish Center

In attendance: Father David F. Ryan, Patricia Linares, Tom Purtell, Laura Angelini, Marty Bush, Jason Sfire, John Sfire, Pam Lynch, Mike Carlino, Stewart Tanakatsubo, Jim Battaglia

Unable to Attend: Terry Huels, John Ergastolo

Father Ryan opened the PPC meeting with the Renew My Church Prayer. Tom Purtell, Chair of the PPC, reviewed the agenda for the meeting: Renew My Church, Emergency Operations Plan, Intentional Discipleship.

Emergency Operations Plan (Laura Angelini):

The ongoing review and development of the parish EOP was updated by Laura Angelini. Laura conveyed that Joseph Pasquesi (Cecilia) has offered to coordinate the Parish Safety and Security Ministry. Mr. Pasquesi has a depth of knowledge and experience as a former FBI agent and remains active in Lake County law enforcement. His family has been in the parish since 1997. Laura reported that there continues to be review meetings with the parish school, youth ministry, and religious education ministry teams. The parish has and continues to receive the cooperation in our EOP with local emergency responders.

Renew My Church (Marty Bush):

Fr. Ryan and Marty Bush shared with the PPC the Guidance format for Groupings and initial collaboration. Please see attached format.

Intentional Discipleship (Pam Lynch):

Fr. Ryan asked Pam Lynch to report on the Fifth Initiative of the PPC on Intentional Discipleship.

Fr. Ryan had asked Pam Lynch, Pam Urban, and Judy Reilly to coordinate this important initiative in the parish. In July of 2016, 25 parishioners attended the Forming Intentional Disciples Workshop conducted by Sherry Weddell and Deacon Keith Strohm of the Archdiocese of Chicago at St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles. The parish team has had several conversations and a group meeting with Deacon Strohm for the parish participation.

Fr. Ryan mentioned that there would be no scheduled PPC meeting in March and the next meeting of the PPC would be after Easter. Tom Purtell expressed appreciation for all those in attendance and their dedication to the parish.

The PPC meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer.

The Five PPC Initiatives:

1. Renew My Church
2. Fix-It Campaign
3. Emergency Operations Plan
4. Continued focus on the Parish School and Religious Education Ministry regarding enrollment, financial viability, and marketing
5. Evangelization through Intentional Discipleship



Guidance for Groupings Until “Activation”

- When a grouping is “activated,” the process will help groupings discern new opportunities for parish vitality as well as new models that meet the demographics and mission needs in the area
- Groupings should wait to begin the 5-phase process until they are “activated” and provided with the resources and guidance to begin discernment and planning
- All groupings will be “activated” sometime over the course of the next 3-4 years
- We are beginning the process of gathering input on the best timing for each grouping to be activated and will be hearing input and sharing more information about timing as it unfolds
- In the meantime, groupings can begin building relationships among one another and beginning initial collaboration (see below)

Guidance for building relationships and beginning initial collaboration in groupings:

Objectives:

- Build relationships and get to know one another
- Identify ways to coordinate to help address current challenges

Consider...	But don't...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to know one another • Praying together • Sharing a meal • Reflecting on a common reading • Facilitating pulpit exchanges • Discussing Parish Transformation goals • Hosting a joint mission or retreat • Coordinating Reconciliation schedules • Inviting others to existing events (e.g., community service) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speculate about possible reconfiguration scenarios or begin planning • Combine or share personnel, unless there is clear agreement from the parishes involved • Commit to joint efforts without clear understanding on use of budget or staff • Reprioritize current plans, unless there is clear agreement and commitment among all parishes involved

Disciple: Those who accept Jesus' message to follow Him.

Intentional Disciples: Following Jesus (purposeful and deliberate)

Sherry Weddell's Forming Intentional Disciples

Statistics from the PEW research Center

For every 100 people who identify as Catholic -
(from www.siena.ord pg 4)

51 never show up
45 go to mass once a month
and
4 are the core, committed people
who make church activities
happen

- Only 30% of people who were raised Catholic are still practicing (pg 24).
- The fastest growing demographic is currently the un-affiliated / "NONE" (p19).
- Of the people who left to go to another church - the majority said their spiritual needs were not being met and they found a religion they liked more. (pg 28)
- Of the people who left to become a NONE - the majority said they "just drifted away" and "stopped believing in the religion's teachings" (pg 32)
- And for those who leave (for either reason) over 70% are gone by 23 yrs.

The key - and it's all about Relationship with Jesus

The thresholds of Conversion

- Trust - A person is able to trust or has a positive association with Jesus, the Church or a Christian believer
- Curiosity - A person is intrigued by or desires to know more about Jesus, His life, His teachings, or some aspect of the Christian faith
- Openness - A person acknowledges to himself or herself and to God that they are open to the possibility of a personal and spiritual change.
- Seeking - The person moves from being passive to an active seeking to know God
- Intentional Discipleship (following Jesus). This is the decision to "drop your nets" to commit to follow Jesus as an obedient disciple.

As the Catechism and Matthew 28:19-10 states; The Church by her very nature is missionary, sent by Christ to all the nations to make disciples of them (CCC 767) Mt 28:19-20

Our goal / the Church's goal is to follow Jesus' call and help others follow Jesus' call -

Keith Strohm

Keith also facilitated the Archdiocese Intentional Discipleship day with Sherry. He the former Director of the Office for the New Evangelization and a deacon for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

He has identified 3 steps in this process

- Making - make disciples - help people encounter Jesus and say yes
- Maturing - grow and deepen their relationship - once you get it - you long to know Jesus more.
 - Sacraments are seen in a new way,
 - Living a moral life is not imposed, is a choice, a response
- Missioning - go out and share with others -

When you are a disciple, when you choose to follow Jesus -
You long to know Jesus more.....

He has observed that somewhere along the way Catholic people seem to hesitate to talk about Jesus.

Keith reminded us that when a parish embraces this new intention and new focus there usually needs to be a change in the way we lead and run our ministries

A paradigm change is needed

- 1) From institutional faith to an intentional faith
- 2) From a culture of engagement to a culture of encounter
- 3) From mainstream to missionary mindset
- 4) From programs to people
- 5) From avoidance to accountability

Keith reminded us that

Focusing on Intentional Discipleship and

Focusing on helping guide people to develop their own personal relationship with Jesus is in line with Cardinal Blase Cupich's vision for

Renew My Church

- 1) We bring people to Christ
- 2) We support each other in knowing Christ more deeply
- 3) We encounter Christ and receive nourishment through prayer and worship
- 4) We build bonds among each other to sustain our life in Christ
- 5) We transform the lives of others through service as Christ's missionary disciples
- 6) We respond to the call to holiness by journeying together with Christ
- 7) We take responsibility for administration and leadership of the parish as good stewards of the gifts Christ has entrusted to us.

Having a relationship with Jesus is Catholic! Jesus is the head of the Church and we are the body. The laity, makes up 98% of the Body of Christ and it is through us that Jesus does His work in the world.

Our next steps:

Create a strategy for the parish.

Help guide everyone to have an deepen their relationship with Jesus.

- 1) Keep those people that we have and engage them - before they leave
- 2) Go out and draw back those who have left
- 3) Go out and find the people who have never had a faith

Digital Church presentation which described ways we can use social media with our parishes and ministries - but we need to have a plan.

- 1) who are we speaking to - people
- 2) what do you want to accomplish - objectives
- 3) what is your strategy -
- 4) what tools or technology will help you accomplish this

Keith can help us in many ways. He has experience in working with parishes and is can help us in many ways - including:

- creating a pastoral strategy that concretely creates a path for people to follow Jesus, become mature disciples, and then be quipped as missionary disciples
- Train and form the leaders
- Help people discern their own charisms

This can seem a little overwhelming - but we need to do something.

We can't sit back and let more people leave our church; and miss out on having a personal relationship with Jesus, guiding their life.

A relationship with Jesus is not created by osmosis - It's a choice. It's not complicated.