

Precious Blood Pastoral Council

Minutes: January 10, 2018

Attending: Fr. Aiden Donahue	Fr. Deny Varghese	Deacon Nicholas Genovese
Mary Bissell Trustee	Bob Lessard	Pamela Amendola
Brian Burgh	Patrice Dunn	Mary Beth Krikscian
Robert Lynch	Hilma Nolan	Richard Jagoe
Patricia Byrne	Michael Dorney	

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Lessard at 7:05 pm.

An opening prayer was offered by Fr. Donahue and Deacon Nick Genovese.

**Reports:**

**Chairman Bob Lessard:** 1. Bob announced the meeting dates for the year. The council will meet January, March, May, September and November with flexibility if any issues arise. At each meeting the 2 parish trustees and a member of the finance committee will be invited to attend. Also at each meeting we will try and discuss two topics ie: report from the school principal and report from the finance committee.

2. Bob reminded everyone to be courteous when others are speaking. Please do not talk over the speaker. If you have a question, raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the chair.

**Fr. Aiden Donahue:** 1. Mass attendance was up during the Christmas holiday as were the collections.

2. The annual appeal has ended and was well received. The parish raised \$5,000.00 over the projected amount.

3. Fr. Donahue reviewed the new Mass schedule to take affect 2019. Schedule A was voted on by the parishioners. Masses will be as follows: 4:30 pm (Saturday), 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, and 4:30 (Sunday) at St. Mary. 5:00 (Saturday), 7:30 and 10:30 (Sunday) at St. Agnes. Confessions will be heard Mondays at St. Mary and Saturday at St. Agnes.

4. The Mass schedule during Lent will be as follows: weekdays 7:00 and 12:05 at St. Mary, 9:00 at St. Agnes. Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at St. Agnes. During Holy Week : Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday will be at St. Mary and Good Friday services will be at St. Agnes. Easter Sunday will follow the regular Sunday Mass schedule.

5. In an effort to eliminate duplicate ministries, Fr. Donahue will be meeting with the chairs of each ministry to combine them. For example we will have one ladies guild and one outreach committee. Anything offered at one church must be offered to all parishioners.

6. St Mary School and both CCD programs are doing well.

7. A new organ will be purchased for St. Agnes church. The old one is the original one from 1960. It will be replaced by a digital organ that we were fortunate to purchase from St. Brendan church in Hamden.

**Fr. Deny Varghese:** Fr. Deny is very happy to be here (and we are happy to have him). Fr. Sam is away on vacation. Fr. Deny will be taking over Fr. Sam's Mass schedule.

**Robert Lynch:** 1. Robert presented a copy of the St. Mary cemetery report. (attached)

2. Robert also gave a facilities report:

A. A new gas boiler was installed in the St. Agnes Rectory. Some lighting was replaced in St. Agnes church including new emergency lighting. The floors were also redone.

B. A roof leak was found in the crying room of St. Agnes. This will need to be repaired.

C. St. Agnes church is being painted. Servpro company will first hand sponge the church to remove all the soot left from candles (\$3200.00) After the walls are prepped the church will be painted (\$3500.00). The entire church will have a new look.

3. Security issues were reviewed. People are loitering at both churches. This has the potential to be a problem especially at the school .

**Mission Statement Committee: Michael Dorney:** The committee met recently and drafted a mission statement for the Pastoral Council. Mike reviewed the process the committee used to draft the statement. He presented the mission statement to the council for review. There were no questions or suggestions. The mission statement was submitted to Fr. Donahue for his approval. He will review it and present a final copy at the March meeting.

#### **New Business:**

**Pastoral Council By-Laws Committee:** The Pastoral Council needs to establish by-laws. The by-laws of the past St. Mary council were reviewed and explained. Pat Byrne and Patrice Dunn will work with Fr. Donahue to draft new by-laws.

#### **Open Discussion:**

Dick Jagoe raised the question of what can be done to inspire our youth to become active in the church. Brian Burgh told of the efforts of Brian Mercier, a youth minister dedicated to bringing youth back to the church. He uses social media, monthly meetings, and summer camp to attract young parishioners. His efforts have been well received by St. Mary's and it was suggested he be introduced to the youth of St. Agnes.

There being no more new business Fr. Donahue offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

The next meeting will be held March 14, 2018 at 7:00pm at St. Agnes parish center.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Amendola