

Precious Blood Pastoral Council

March 14, 2018

Attending: Fr. Aidan Donahue	Bob Lessard	Pamela Amendola
Al Torney	Patrice Dunn	Brian Burgh
Deacon Paul Jennings	Hilma Nolan	Deacon Nick Genovese
Michael Dorney	Frank Lacerenza	Mary Beth Kriksciun
Mary Bissell, Trustee	Doris Nash	Ray Stattel
Jay Mraz, Trustee	Richard Jagoe	Pat Byrne
Felix Lizaswain		

The meeting was called to order by Bob Lessard at 7:00 pm

An opening prayer was offered by Fr. Donahue.

Reports:

Chairman Bob Lessard: Bob thanked everyone who brought refreshments and suggested we create a list and take turns bringing refreshments for each meeting.

Frank Lacerenza, Principal St. Mary School: Frank gave us an overview of our school and the advantage of a parochial education. Catholic schools better prepare leaders especially Christ centered leaders. The enrollment of St. Mary School is up 24% at a time when other schools are closing. Standardize testing is above the national average. Classrooms blend tradition and modern with

chrome books and smart boards. The school has an active Home and School Association which has raised \$110,000.00 for the school. There is also a strategic safety plan with the Milford Police Department. Frank invited all the members to tour the school.

Al Torney, Financial Board Co-Chair: The parish annual report will be given the weekend of March 18 at all Masses. The board acts in an advisory capacity for financial decisions regarding operations and day to day repairs. The parish and the school have a five year strategic plan. Meetings are open to anyone.

Question: Bob Lessard asked if the Parish Council can make suggestions.

Yes, we can if we present it at Financial Board meeting.

Question: Felix Lizaswain asked if there is a cap on money requested

No, the money is based on need.

Deacon John Hoffman: Deacon John gave an overview of the Faith Formation program. We have 1,000 students enrolled from 1st grade through adult. The program is trying to have the 7th and 8th graders meet together. John brought forth the question what can we do for adult continuing faith formation. Also how to better reach the young students, would they relate better to our younger priests.

We are beginning to assemble a Parish wide email list.

Question: Felix Lizaswain asked if we have altar servers.

John is trying to recruit from the Faith Formation classes.

Currently St. Mary's has 20 altar servers

Old Business:

Council By-Laws: Fr. Donahue explained the process of how the by-laws were drafted. Members are asked to read them over and be prepared to discuss them and vote next meeting.

Mission Statement: Fr. Donahue reviewed the statement that was presented last meeting. He tweaked it and presented the changes this meeting. Members are asked to review it and be prepared to discuss it and vote next meeting.

Question: Rich Jagoe asked if, to inspire youth to return to church, can be added.

This is addressed under Faith Formation.

New Business:

Deacon John would like the council to develop a survey to present to parish members. The survey would include all aspects of parish life. An example of questions might be: 1. How can we as a parish better serve the poor and needy.

2. What do you like about the current liturgy and how can it be improved.

Bob would like members to think about what they would like to see on the agenda for each meeting.

Questions:

1. Felix : Why has there been a drop in Mass intentions at St. Agnes? Fr. Donahue stated there has been a drop at St. Mary's also.
2. Have people at St. Agnes accepted the increase in monthly collections? Fr. Donahue reported about 1/3 participate which is about equal at St. Marys.

\$5000.00 total was collected at Masses said on Ash Wednesday. This will be given to the Beth El shelter.

3. Has there been a change in the use of envelopes. Fr. Donahue stated there hasn't been much of a change.

1. Doris Nash: Is it possible to institute dedicating the sanctuary lamp at St. Agnes? This will begin after Easter.

2. Is it possible to change receiving communion in the back of the church at St. Agnes to a similar way it is done at St. Mary? Fr. Donahue will give it some consideration. It may require some structural changes.

3. If Mass intention is cancelled due to weather how is it rescheduled? The Mass is rescheduled to the next available day.

1. Patrice Dunn: How is online giving affected if Mass is cancelled or a person misses Mass. Fr. Donahue explained the process.

There being no more questions Fr. Donahue gave a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 at St. Mary. Bob Lessard and Brian Burgh will bring refreshments.