

Notes from Pastoral Advisory Council January 9, 2018

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the parish conference room. Present were Candy Weinzerl, Judy Teiken, Cleo Hartung, Cindy Little, Tony Yerkes, Deacon John Zinniel and Fr. Tom.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Fr. Tom presented updates of things that are happening around the parish community.

- A. The Cemetery Committee has completed its compilation of rules to govern the use of our St. Peter's Cemetery. Previous to this there were no written guidelines which has resulted in a hodge-lodge approach to burials. This written format is increasingly important as Catholics are adapting to the use of cremation. These new guidelines will be effective 1 May 2018 and will be published to the community. There will be no "grandfathered" understandings permitted.
- B. The Cemetery Committee is recommending the needed replacement of the storage shed in the cemetery. They are looking at different options for the replacement. The Finance Council will have to approve the expenditure of funds for a new building.
- C. The cemetery Committee is exploring the possibility of erecting a columbarium, (niches for cremation) in the cemetery. At the moment the ashes are buried. The committee will be researching the cost and whether there is a desire for such a structure in the parish.
- D. Youth. The first half of the year went well with an increase in the number of students in our RE program. On Wednesday, January 31 the evening classes will be going to Bemidji to join the students at that parish for an evening presentation by a speaker.
- E. Annette will begin parent-student preparation classes for the second graders. Nearly 20 are anticipated for First Communion on Sunday, May 6, 2018.
- F. The date for Confirmation is Sunday, September 9, 2018.
- G. Cleo Williams was able to locate needed parts to repair the mechanism that swings the bell. The bell is now able to ring the Angelus (3 times a day) and summon folks to the weekend masses. Without this repair the parish would have to spend thousands of dollars for a new installation.
- H. Fr. Tom reported that the "visitor" contributions to the parish were up, with a few very generous Christmas gifts received.
- I. Fr. Tom needs to offer an explanation of the new envelopes in the packets that are for the "Seminararian Burse" The monies collected are invested with the Catholic Community Foundation of Crookston and used to fund the education of seminarians.

NEW BUSINESS

The major topic for discussion by the council members was the establishment of a task force to develop a five year plan for the parish. This is something that is being asked of all the parishes throughout the diocese in order to help facilitate and deal with the declining attendance and priest retirements in the coming years. Fr. Tom presented statistics that need be considered in developing a five-year plan. This task force will meet for a 14-18 month period of time using a template model as its guide. The goal of this project is to critically examine all aspects of our parish life and identify things that we do well, things that need improvement, or things we would like to see happen. This task force will be helping the parish community to develop the ways to remain a viable and intentional community that is inviting and flourishing. The plans of all the parishes will then form the foundation for a possible Diocesan Synod which will create a diocesan five-year plan. Fr. Tom will be seeking out members who will form this task force.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Adjourned 8:25 PM