

St. Saviour Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes for 2/7/2012

Attendees:

Fr. Danny Murphy, Sr. Valeria Belanger, Sandy Maskell, Geri-Anne O'Beirne, Regina Ryan, Charlie Piggot, Cyndi Ramirez, Kathleen Griffin-Kluger, Gilliann Winn

Welcome and Opening Prayer.

NEW BUSINESS

Lenten Preparations

We discussed ways in which we can deepen our engagement with our 'cluster' parishes:

- St. Augustine: covering Social Justice Issues over a series of Monday's during Lent. Regina will serve as our liaison to their Social Justice Committee
- Xavier Company: presentation of a Lenten Play. We identified a couple of dates that might work for our Parish. Geri-Anne will make sure other Parishes are informed and that we promote through our networks so that we have a good turnout should we move forward with the play.

The focus of this meeting was on the Parish goals in the areas of Evangelization & the Word. Cyndi and Kathleen led the reflection and discussion, having spent time listening to Parish members' thoughts in this area.

Observations & Reflections

- Our Parish is like a family: it helps parish members negotiate life. Our priests represent the head of the family, nurturing and witnessing through their actions. The community continues to be welcoming, as new parishioners often remark about one of the main reasons they remain at St. Saviour in their quest for a place of worship, is the welcoming community they find the moment they step into the door at our parish.
- For younger Parish members, the Parish helps to make the connection between what they hear at Mass and what goes on in the world. Geri-Anne continues to be instrumental in planning activities that would keep them engaged.

- The Parish staff is supportive and approachable. Many felt it begins at the head, and the strong leadership provided by Fr. Murphy is critical to the strength of our community.
- The Mass teaches us how to relate the Word to how we can best serve others; it helps parishioners reflect on the Word in their life, and apply the Word to their daily living. There is a real connection through the homily with issues someone may be dealing with in their everyday life.
- People are seeing increased engagement by Parish members in the community life of the church. Parish members want to become involved.
- There is a lot of depth among Parish members and a variety of members bring strength to the Parish, and this depth comes from within and outside of the Parish boundaries, the elementary school brings families from outside the Parish and many of these families become active participants in the life of the Parish through their children.
- There are many opportunities to engage in Parish life, and every week there is an open invitation to participate. People have likened it to having many doors through which they can venture in and share with one another.
- Continue the outreach and the increase in awareness of opportunities. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council are taking steps to be more visible to the Parish community (by wearing name tags, and being available before the Mass to welcome parishioners as they enter the Church), another opportunity to connect and further increase our visibility as a means to be a type of liaison for the people who may not have the opportunity to speak with one of the priests.
- Homily Line! Connecting with the Word, a short, effective way to evangelize, and reach out to people who may want to hear the word of God and not always have the opportunity to attend Mass during the week.
- Web page Welcome page: strong, engaging message

Discussion

- Do we need to broaden the message for non-IT persons? Even as we get more technologically savvy, we cannot forget those who may not have either the access to or ability to disseminate information that is “on the web”. We cannot let those people slip through the cracks.
- Should we provide a Blast email to provide updates?

- Every other month?
- Perhaps updating parishioners on events, plus an evangelizing message?
- Can we capture emails from the Photo-Journal work?
- Adult Faith Formation
 - Geri has connected with the leader of the teens/young adult work at the Diocese.
 - Review potential speakers and groups parishioners may want to be involved with (e.g. Catholic Underground)
- Continue to look for opportunities to cluster with other Parishes and combine resources for outreach and networking. This broadens our scope, and enables us to see that we are part of a wider community, the Church is indeed universal.

OTHER BUSINESS

We continue to look for ways in which the parish can be of assistance to Aiden's family, now that they are back in Brooklyn. Discussion around ways the Parish might be able to help with meals for the family.

PPC Member Emails

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