

St. Louis Pastoral Council
8/16/16 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Fr. Stan, Keith Moenter, Ken Bohman, Hannah Giesting, James Dickey, Myra Adams, Dave Meyer, Tom Sullivan, Erik Tuveson, Leron Giesting, Pat Meer, Amanda Canessa (School Commission)

Not in Attendance:

Nelson French, Amy Streator

Approval of Minutes:

Tom Sullivan 1st

Dave Meyer 2nd

Pastor's Report:

- 150th Anniversary: 2018 will be the sesquicentennial birthday of St. Louis Parish. We should be thinking about assembling a committee to celebrate the milestone.
- Bingo Committee: Fr. Stan and Principal Chad Moeller talked up the need for new volunteers at the return-to-school assembly and the Bingo letter was recently distributed to all parishioners. Four individuals to date have volunteered to serve.
- Catholic Education: Fr. Stan will begin talking about the school periodically to emphasize the importance of a catholic education at St. Louis School. Hopefully, enrollment will increase over time. The best education one can provide is to prepare a person for eternal life.
- Parish Deficit: Fr. Stan asked for feedback on asking parishioners to increase their weekly contributions by 5% or 10% to help us eliminate the deficit in FY16/FY17. The feedback was positive. Erik stressed using automatic payroll deductions to bolster contributions and for parishioners who are already doing so to increase their amounts.
- Criterion Cost: The parish pays the subscription cost for all families to receive the weekly Archdiocesan newspaper, The Criterion. This cost is significant and is a component of the expense budget. We should consider how the cost could be shared with parish families. One idea was adding a special envelope for the Criterion cost. The parish would have to continue to pay for families who did not pay.
- Websites: Fr. Stan will convene the parish and school administrators to improve the church and school's websites. Their first meeting will be held soon.

Chairperson's Report:

- Prayers: Opening and closing prayers will be offered by a council member each month. Keith will offer the prayers for the 9/13 meeting.
- Council Meetings: The council members agreed to move the council meetings from the third Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday. This was done to accommodate several members who had scheduling conflicts.
- Handicap Doors: Two doors near the handicap ramps need to be accessible via push button. This item will be deferred to Wade for research and installation, if necessary.
- Parish Life Committee: Fr. Stan will be meeting with Rheadawn Young to discuss the committee and to identify a chairperson.

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- Finance Committee: The committee will meet next on 8/17 and will report during the next council meeting on Tuesday, 9/13.

Parish Picnic:

Pat provided a summary of the successful picnic that was held at Liberty Park on 7/24. Between 250-300 parishioners participated in Mass and lunch. Many volunteers contributed to the event along with others who made cash contributions.

Parish / Youth Programs:

Led by Hannah, the council discussed the Life Teen program and religious education for youth. Hannah, Fr. Stan, Carrie Wessler, Amy Tonges and Dave Meyer will meet to continue the discussion.

School Commission:

Amanda Canessa gave an overview of the commission's three-year strategic plan. She and Jenny Geers met monthly during the school year and over the summer to develop it. They have contributed significant time and effort to draft the plan. It will be presented soon to the entire School Mission. The plan will be adopted after additional feedback is received.

Additional Topics:

- Leron was asked by Kevin Chaffee to mention the film about abortion called "Voiceless." Leron and Hannah are going to follow-up with Kevin to determine what churches are planning to participate. Any next step would involve sharing the film with Fr. Stan. Early October is the film's release time.
- Mayra mentioned the challenges with the Spanish Mass. Fr. Stan commented that the biggest challenge is priest personnel. Fr. Stan and Mayra will work on a solution.
- "That Man Is You" Men's Program begins on 9/9. The group will meet on Fridays at the Big Four Café from 6:00 to 7:30 a.m.
- Pat said RCIA begins next month. Please pray for individuals who want or need a Catholic life to join RCIA.
- Dave said the mission trip team will be meeting on 8/21 to start planning next year's trip to Newark Valley, New York.
- Wade Ryle broke his ankle yesterday while working in the maintenance building at the cemetery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Motion to Adjourn:

Tom Sullivan 1st
Mayra Adams 2nd

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, 9/13 at 7:00 p.m. in parish office library

Submitted by Keith Moenter