

## **St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**

November 19, 2019

**Meeting** – The Parish Pastoral Council meeting opened with faith sharing and prayers.

**Approval of Minutes** – October 15, 2019 minutes were approved. The approved minutes are to be provided to Gayle Cilimburg to post on the St. Christopher Parish website.

### **Ministry Updates**

The Parish Council recruitment effort continues. Two prospects stepped forward from the October 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> ambo appeal. In addition, three other prospects have indicated an interest. Accordingly, Cheryl Selak will meet with all five. Only one is in the targeted under-40 age demographic which Council particularly needs to be more representative of the overall Parish population. Cheryl also will extend an invitation to all five prospects to attend the next regular Council meeting in January.

### **Parish Council Christmas Party**

Council members elected to change the meeting time for December to 6 PM. Council's traditional potluck buffet will be served at the rectory. Spouses are invited to join the Christmas celebration. Council members signed up to bring a food or beverage contribution to the evening's festivities. Mary Horvath will contact those absent from tonight's meeting, and she will coordinate the overall meal plan.

### **Events Update**

- Social Club Luncheons – October 25<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup> – The December luncheon will cover the November/December holiday season and will offer something special to celebrate Christmas.
- Donut Sundays – November 17<sup>th</sup> – There was a good turnout last Sunday. Upcoming Donut Sundays will be hosted on January 19<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – This event will be discontinued due to declining attendance and the considerable effort required by many volunteers to offer ongoing Pancake Breakfasts.
- Holiday Bereavement – Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 AM and 7:00 PM – 13 and 11 people, respectively, attended the morning and evening events. Beginning in February after the 11 AM Mass, there will be an ongoing bereavement support group offering.
- Trunk or Treat – October 25<sup>th</sup> – This annual fun event was indeed a great fun time for all who participated.
- Evening of Remembrance – November 3<sup>rd</sup> – This event was celebrated on a Sunday night due to the coincidence with a weekend. Perhaps this factored into the largest ever attendance for this event in its lengthy history: over 100 people attended. A small reception was hosted afterwards.

- *Joyfully Gifted* Retreat – November 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 3:30 PM – 35 participated in this quick-paced event, and the overall evaluations of the program rated it excellent. 14 of the 35 wanted ongoing engagement. A highlighted component of the retreat, the movie *Celebrating What's Right with the World*, was suggested to be incorporated in a future Parish Pastoral Council meeting.
- Advent – December 1<sup>st</sup> – This season is soon upon us. A Bible study opportunity will be presented together with the array of other Parish activities offered during the Advent season.

### **Welcoming Committee Update**

- This newly developing initiative under the leadership of Laura Hunter has begun by establishing its mission with four guiding principles:
  - Treat everyone as an honored guest
  - Pay attention to details
  - Strive to exceed expectations
  - Act with intentionality

An additional new member has joined the team, Jenny Dieringer.

- In formulating its mission, the realization dawned that what is truly being addressed extends beyond a Welcoming Committee. Accordingly, the so-called “Welcoming Committee” has now morphed into a Hospitality Ministry. The Hospitality Ministry will embrace welcoming but also the broader community and the Usher Ministry. The Parish survey feedback is being used to identify current challenges.
- A formal rollout of the Hospitality Ministry is being developed for Parish introduction in January 2020. Initiatives for 2020 and 2021 will be presented with assessment planned for 2022.

### **Youth Ministry Update**

- Ongoing activities are engaging high school students.
- The inclusion of middle school students is under consideration.

### **Young Adult Ministry Update**

- Logan Feldkamp, Parish Pastoral Minister, is spearheading the development of this initiative to address the needs of the Parish young adult population in their 20s and 30s.
- A new name which distinguishes this group from the Parish Youth Ministry is recognized as an imperative.

### **Ladies Guild Update**

- Movie Night – October 19, 2019 – Some 50 individuals participated in this relaxing and fun event. More Movie Nights are likely to come as this event is fairly easy to execute.
- Advent – Bible Study – 32 have signed up so far and includes a nice mix of parishioners.

- Tailgate Party – November 13, 2019 – This intimate but enthusiastic group gathered to enjoy Kernels by Chrissie, the night before the Browns Thursday night football game.
- Ladies Guild Winter Social – January 30, 2020 – A theme for this event is being developed now.
- Spring Meeting – April 23, 2020 – This meeting will introduce a Little Flower Project based on the model of St. Therese of Lisieux, a 24-year-old who did “little things” recognizing that small acts of kindness and many small things make a difference. A prospective project will welcome newly baptized babies by offering their new Moms a jar of granola or muffins with a flower, a “little thing”.

### Parish Pastoral Plan Update

- Goals 1 – 3
  - The Hospitality Ministry is up and going forward now.
- Goals 4 – 6 –
  - Parish Staff had no comments on Council’s input on Goals 4 and 5.
  - Regarding St. Colman a pulpit exchange is not supported. Rather the Pastor from St. Colman or Sr. Marilyn Nickle might be engaged to relate the needs of the St. Colman faith community to the people of St. Christopher Parish.
  - The prospect of a Parish Pastoral Council exchange was raised. The first question to be addressed: Does St. Colman have a Parish Pastoral Council?
  - Sharon Armstrong highlighted the involvement of PSR students through their Service Saturday program. Students contribute food and assist with the Twice Blessed Store with drop-off of donated items at the Rocky River Methodist Church.

### Pastor’s Update

- The capital campaign has commitments for \$706,512 to date – 23.5% of target.
- Those being solicited for donations have universally acknowledged awareness of the capital campaign. Many have provided positive feedback on the Parish Survey.
- Initial construction of Centennial Park is underway now with a completion target of Summer 2020.
- A Diocesan seminary campaign is currently underway.
- Communications improvements continue to be addressed with an expanded Parish bulletin and ongoing work to the Parish website to address the Church, the School and PSR.
- The ***Belltower Beacon*** is due out next week featuring many photos of Parish events.

**Closing Prayer**

Cheryl Selak led Council in prayer with a focus on the Parish Mission Statement.

**Next Meetings**

- The next Council gathering will be held on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM in the Parish Rectory to celebrate Christmas. Spouses are invited and encouraged to attend.
- The next Council business meeting will be held Tuesday, January 21 at 7 PM in the Parish Center. Parishioners are welcome to attend.