

May 2, 2018 PPC Meeting Notes

In attendance: Monica LaFond, Nigel Timothy, Lynn Jacobs, Teresa Coda, Kate Mason, Leo Bernotas, Frank Daly, John Glancy, Claire Ramsbottom, Marilyn Hausammann (guest).

Town Hall Meeting

Fr. Daly is approaching his one-year anniversary at Our Lady of Sorrows. The timing seems right for a Town Hall meeting. Town Hall meetings have been successful in bringing people up to speed and creating a forum for dialogue in the past. John suggested running the Town Hall as it has been done in the past; John, as the PPC, and Fr. Daly will “co-host.” John will pose a series of questions to Fr. Daly to answer; someone from the PFC will report on the financial health of the parish; there will be time for parishioners to ask questions. Claire suggested discussing the Disciples in Mission plan writing process and offering a “review of the year.” Include some sort of handout with information about the year, including highlights and numbers (what events did we do; how many people attended; etc.). This will also be the opportunity to say how we will involve parishioners in the Disciples in Mission plan writing process. The group chose Sunday, June 10 at 1 p.m. to schedule the Town Hall Meeting. John and Fr. Daly will work through the format together.

Disciples in Mission/Pastoral Plan

Claire offered a recap of this past Sunday’s initial Pastoral Plan Writing meeting and shared that one of the goals in forming the team was to gather a group of diverse parishioners, both long-time and new parishioners. We have one year to write a 3-year plan. The first draft is due in November. The Archdiocese recommends creating 3-4 smart goals, and at least one of them must do with creating vocations. Everyone on the writing team has read the book *Everyone Leads* and there are copies available in the parish office if anyone from the PPC would like to have a copy and read it. The initial kick off meeting went well; there was lots of positive energy.

Parishioner Idea Implementation Process and Volunteer Coordinator updates

Teresa has had several people approach her with ideas of programs/events that they would like to begin at OLOS and is wondering what the process is for hearing and implementing parishioner ideas. The PPC suggested creating a standard form for parishioners interested in beginning an event/group to complete. The PPC and Pastor will review the form and information and can then either request more info (the person may be invited to a PPC meeting to explain) or approve the event. Information gathered on the form should include: Name/title of event, goal of the event/program, audience, suggested frequency (one time or recurring), if there are people who are already interested, what (if any) funding requirements the event/program has, other needs. The volunteer coordinator’s name and contact information should be listed on the form as the contact person. After the PPC reviews the form, the volunteer coordinator would follow up with the “applicant.” Monica LaFond suggested looking at the Congregational church in Sharon’s form as an example.

Lynn updated the PPC on two ideas that have been brought to her by parishioners.

- Melissa Nicotera would like to do some sort of crafting social group; she has a few ideas including a “Mommy and Me” event or a Senior event.
- Maureen Connelly would like to start a quarterly parents group with parents of teens to share about what’s going on in the community and to offer support to each other. Maybe occasionally they could have speakers come speak about issues facing teens. Maureen also expressed interest in making this a welcoming committee.

The PPC had a discussion about funding for these events and other parishioner ideas. Marilyn named a difference between parish sponsored events/programs (parish picnic, commissions) and “ground up” events/programs. We currently don’t have a budget for “ground up” events and programs but this is something that should be discussed in the pastoral plan writing process. In the meantime, we will pilot a new form (discussed above) with the ideas that have come forth and evaluate how it works.

Bulletin: Ministry of the Month

Teresa shared a “Ministry of the Month” page from a different parish’s bulletin and proposed trying something like this at OLOS: each month highlight a different commission or ministry, including information about the group’s mission, activities, when they meet, who can get involved, and pictures of activities; maybe also include a “get to know a current member” profile. The PPC supported this idea and Teresa’s idea to form a template for the information we would like to include and send it to the various commissions. Leo proposed gathering the info over the summer and begin including the pages in the bulletin in the fall. Kate suggested beginning around the same time as Mass at the Lake, and that ministries/commissions could use their sheet as a promotional flyer to distribute at the Mass at the Lake. The information gathered could also be used to update the website about the various ministries.

Commission Updates

• Faith Formation Commission:

- There is an adult faith formation coffee hour on Sunday, May 20th; it will be an update about Sharon Interfaith Action and the work that various parishioners who have gotten involved are doing with it.

• Christian Services Commission (CSC):

- **CSC** will be collecting travel size toiletries May 19 thru June 3rd and will assemble individual bags for Evelyn House Home for Displaced Families and HUGS in Sharon and through the Police Department.

• Liturgy Commission:

- A PPC member brought up the fact that the cross has been moved to make room for the baptismal candle. Fr. Daly said this move took place out of necessity. The PPC reaffirmed the importance of communicating with parishioners about changes in the church.

Other business

- A seminarian has approached Fr. Daly asking if he could come and speak during Masses or coffee hour on behalf of the Labouré Society (raises money to help seminarians and priests pay off their student loans). There is not a formal collection for this, but people are invited to give. No one on PPC opposed this idea. Fr. Daly will follow up with the group.
- Fr. Daly would like to invite a priest friend who is deaf to come and say Mass and wondered if the PPC thinks the parish would be interested in this. PPC said yes and suggested a coffee hour afterwards for conversation about it.

Our next meeting, on June 6, is our last PPC meeting of the year.