

Saint Francis de Sales Pastoral Council

Minutes – September 20, 2018

Members of the Saint Francis de Sales Pastoral Council (PC) met on September 20, 2018, in the Church Sanctuary for a reflection and prayer led by Kathy Lynch. The membership then convened in the Church Hall and the meeting was called to order by Karen Creager. Those attending the meeting were Father Paul Wharton, Sam Interdonato, Marge Pachuta, John Sadowski, Albert Casne, Karen Creager, Kolleen Finch, Regina Fairchild, Delores Fondale, Jason Hudak, Kathy Lynch, Annette Jennings, Brian Keiling, and Henry Bobbin.

Minutes of the August 16, 2018 meeting discussed. Father Paul commented on the minutes in that he wished to have the word “additional” to the item regarding Anna’s Angels. Kolleen Finch made a motion that the minutes be accepted as emailed with the revision to add “additional”. John Sadowski seconded the motion and the motion carried. Jason Hudak will make the revision and email to all PC members and Mark Misco to post on the church website.

The council reviewed the following reports submitted for August/ September 2018: Couples for Christ, Ladies of St. Francis, Knights of Columbus, Liturgy Committee, Educations Committee, St. Francis School, and Evangelization Committee

Faith Formation – Father Paul stated that the session began 2 weeks ago. Lisa Keiling will begin preparing a report for the PC.

Couples for Christ – Father Paul asked if Albert had reserved a meeting place for the committee’s 9/22 meeting. He will contact Mark Misco about reserving a room.

St. Francis de Sales School Board – No report received. Brian Keiling is now the representative of the school board on the PC. The board has reviewed the budget for the school. The superintendent visited and was pleased with the enrollment.

Unfinished Business

- Nothing has been done on the PC By-Laws since the last meeting. Father Paul has been unsuccessful in meeting with members reviewing the by-laws. Will have a meeting in a couple weeks.
- Kathy Lynch was put in contact with Emily Banks of WV Tech, in regard to starting a Newman Club at the school.
- Kathy is also waiting to hear from Emily Banks regarding a welcome dinner for students. The dinner would be at the Church. She hopes to have additional information for the PC’s October meeting.
- The PC minutes have been moved on the Church website.

- Annette will have her husband Skip to come with an announcement for the bulletin to encourage parishioners to sign up for “Formed.”
- The renovations to the Church are continuing. The work should be completed in early October. The remaining work involves grouting the tile, completing the woodwork, and painting. The pews are completed with the exception of cleaning. A trip is scheduled to visit Maryland regarding the marble for the Tabernacle, Ambo, and Font.
- Approximately \$125, 000 has been received from the fundraising effort for the renovations. Father Paul expects a \$90,000 contribution in the next couple of weeks from the Diocese based upon the contributions to the Catholic Sharing Appeal.
- The “Open House” for the fall of 2019 will be kept as part of “Unfinished Business” so it was not forgotten, but that it is too early to start detailed planning of the event.
- The lift chair at the rear stairs will continue to be evaluated.
- The open house for the fall of 2019.

New Business

- Lenten lunches were discussed and Kolleen and Regina will coordinate as necessary.
- Karen brought up a point of making visitors and newcomers feel welcome at Mass.
- Kolleen asked about acknowledging birthdays and anniversaries in the parish. Father stated the parish is too large for this to be feasible.
- Jason asked about having the choir go through the announcements before Mass rather than Father doing them after. Father indicated too many parishioners come late to Mass for this to be effective.
- Marge brought up about a lack of etiquette before and during Mass. She asked if something could be added to the bulletin to remind parishioners of proper etiquette.
- Marge asked about the letter from Richmond to members of their diocese. Father Paul indicated it should be available on the diocese’s website.
- It was asked if the parish was going to have a collection for the relief efforts associated with hurricane Florence. Father Paul did not think it was possible since the diocese does not have a bishop but he will ask at the Personnel Committee meeting. Also, Catholic Charities will most likely be conducting fundraising.

Comments from Father Paul

- Father Paul was asked about the Bishop Bransfield’s departure. He indicated that when a Bishop turns 75, he submits a letter to the Vatican requesting retirement and the Vatican decides when to accept the resignation. When the allegations against the Bishop surfaced, the Vatican accepted his resignation. Archbishop Lori has been charged with conducting an investigation into the allegations against Bishop Bransfield. The Archbishop will most likely appoint someone within the diocese to oversee daily operations. Normal operating procedures will continue with the exception that the

diocese will not begin a new deaconate class nor may it open a new parish until a permanent bishop is installed.

Father Paul is no longer the vicar since there is no bishop.

Annette asked about the document issued following the previous allegations of abuse.

As part of the previous investigation, bishops were exempted in the document.

Faith Sharing

- Marge provided the faith sharing for the meeting.
- Father Paul volunteered to lead the prayer for the next meeting.
- Albert volunteered for the faith sharing for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by praying the Our Father.