

Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes December 06, 2016

Pastoral Council Meeting was called to order in the Parish Hall at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, at 7:00 PM with Fr. Healey presiding.

Council members present were: Patricia Bakaur, Mary Becker, Jack Donohue, Fr. Healey, Michael Kondracki, Kathleen Laird, Joan Levesque, Marion Mooney, Frances Parsons and David Reilly.

The opening prayer was led by Fr. Healey.

Fr. Healey shared some of his ideas of how a Parish Council functions. It helps the pastor discern what is being done well and what might be able to be done better. It is the mind and heart of the parish community.

Fr. Healey spoke how some parish council members become members either by recommendation, invitation or voting. He's had experience with different methods of membership. He feels if someone shows desire, they should be allowed to be a member of the parish council. He asked if we had officers on our parish; we do not. Fr. Healey asked if we had any ex-officio members.

Mike shared that Du Cipullo had asked for him to represent the usher ministry with the parish council. He felt it would be beneficial for the ushers to have a voice on the council. Fran is a former president of the Woman's Club; she remained on the council when her term as president was over. We have two deacons on the council and two student members. Patti's membership progressed into social media involvement. It was discussed if heads of ministry should be on the council. It was suggested that perhaps the head of each organization appoint someone to the council.

We presently have Jack Donohue and Fran on our council; both are members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society and have a knowledge of the organization.

Marion is an active member of our Woman's Club. Joan has a background in Catholic Education and is a past president of our 50+ organization.

Jack suggested a three year term and Kathy suggested a staggered change in membership as new members are added and others complete their term. Fr. Healey asked how many times our council met a year; Jack mentioned we met 4 times a year. However, some sub committees met more often when establishing our social media and revamping our “Welcome” packets for our parish.

Fr. Healey asked about the value of us establishing sub committees....Social Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee, Liturgy Committee and Religious Education (adult and student) Committee were a few suggestions. The general consensus among council members was that ad hoc committees would be beneficial.

Fr. Healey continued to ask how our previous council operated. Fran shared that an agenda was sent out to members and there was room for members to add any topics they wanted added to agenda. Marion mentioned most of our time was discussing and establishing social media for our parish...web site, Facebook and Twitter account.

Patti mentioned how growth has come from our original plan. Topics that are posted on our web site are then posted on Facebook and Twitter accounts and vice versa. Our Giving Tree Program notice also showed on Instagram.

Jack mentioned how smoothly the transition has gone with Msgr. Hoyer's retirement and Fr. Healey serving as our new pastor. He felt credit for the smooth transition was due to both Msgr. Hoyer and Fr. Healey. Fr. Healey mentioned a great deal of credit goes directly to the parishioners for the ease of transition. He said we need to move forward and can't rest on our laurels. The main thrust of our work needs to be on evangelization...how we can reach out to those not in the pews. It was mentioned establishing an ad hoc committee for evangelization; this can be settled on at our January meeting.

Fr. Healey asked present council members to give recommendations for future members. He will send out an agenda a few days before our next meeting and will ask for suggestions for other items not mentioned on agenda.

Fr. asked if we have a Pastoral Plan. He spoke about a handout he gave at a staff meeting...."Elements of Parish Life." He would like each council

member to receive a copy, review and comment at our next meeting. Mary will send a copy to each member.

Fr. Healey mentioned the diocesan survey that was conducted several months ago. Parishioners throughout the diocese were asked to participate in the survey and each parish was asked to have a small committee to meet and answer questions from another survey. The results of these surveys are expected to be available shortly after the first of the year.

Other Business:

Mike mentioned the numbers are dropping for attendance. The reasons vary... demographics are changing in our area, we are burying many of our faithful, present population is dropping out of religion. Mary also mentioned number counts vary as to when the ushers actually take their counts.

Fr. Healey asked about any previous involvement our parish had with Ecumenical services. He shared the local synagogue congregation has invited us to participate in their Seder dinner. This will be discussed further at our next meeting. Marion spoke a little about the Seder Meal the Woman's Club hosted previously. It was beautifully done and well received by those who attended. Kathy spoke of a few activities Youth Ministry had in the past (volleyball & movies) that were pretty well attended by local youths from other church communities.

"Rebuilt", written by Michael White, was discussed. It was suggested our Parish Council members read the book. Some members have read the book already, copies will be ordered for members. An informal discussion took place about cultural mentality and the challenge of engaging our youth. Today's culture expects to be entertained. We are dealing with entertaining versus worship. Mary mentioned Deacon Beckel may have further information on Ecumenical endeavors since he is a part of Cape Cod Council of Churches Chaplains. Fr. Healey told members we now have a group from Bulgarian School of Cape Cod that meets at our parish each Saturday. They are Orthodox Christians. Their curriculum focuses on the Bulgarian language, culture and faith. The group is very appreciative of being able to rent our space. Fr. Healey feels this is good outreach within our community.

Patti asked about our annual Speaker Series. Fr. Healey suggests having the summer series continue and perhaps have less than three sessions if that is what will work for this year. Some speakers were suggested and Fr. Healey will follow through with Msgr. Avila and Fr. Perry.

Fr. Healey mentioned he would like a “Healing Mass” planned for us at the parish.

A Parish Mission was discussed. In the past we’ve had Fr. MacDonald and Fr. Simeon Gallagher present parish missions for us. Joan and Marion will look into possibilities for a future parish mission. Deacon Greg Kandra was mentioned as a possibility.

It was a productive first Parish Council meeting with Fr. Healey. Council members will email Mary with any suggestions they have for possible new members. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017.

Respectfully submitted
Mary C. Becker
Administrative Assistant