

**Blessed Trinity Parish  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 25th, 2018 6:30 – 8:05 PM**

**Present:** Fr. Joe Dominic, Jim O'Neill, Deb Hasler, John Russell, Jerry Knier, Paula Inda, Steve Faust, Sabryn Bley, Jed Wallerer, Suzy Schmidtke, Kris Raeder, Kitty L. Klich (Minutes) and Sandy Jordan (Staff)

**Excused:** Ruth Pedroni

**Opening Prayer:** Led by Deb Hasler

**Approval of Agenda** (Jim O'Neill):

John Russell motioned to approve the Agenda. Paula Inda seconded it. Agenda approved.

**Approval of September 27, 2018 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes** (Jim O'Neill):

Steve Faust motioned to approve the Minutes. Jerry Knier seconded the motion. Minutes from September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting approved.

**Commission/Committee Reports – Highlights:**

**Evangelization & Formation:**

**Evangelization:** (Paula Inda)

- On Wednesday, October 31, Father Joe, Suzie Barrock, Carol Benishek, Sandy Jordan and Paula Inda will be meeting for breakfast and to discuss goals for joint parish evangelization.

**Religious Education (RE) and Youth & Young Adult Ministry** (Ruth Pedroni): No Report

**Catholic Life Center** (Steve Faust):

- John O'Dell will be replacing Julie Minter beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> when Julie leaves. He will begin his transition period on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Meeting was held at St. John Evangelist with Doug Barnes from Zimmerman Architectural Studios in Milwaukee giving a presentation and answering questions.
- Concerns mentioned for the Catholic Life Center were storage, accessibility for the handicapped, bathrooms and a kitchen. Many spaces could be shared by multiple groups. Concerns were expressed that certain events or funerals could conflict with scheduled speakers because of noise.
- Positive comments that the Catholic Life Center might be more visible to parish members that are unaware of who they are and what they have to offer if the CLC was located in the church.
- Good attendance for the bus trip to Milwaukee for River Cruise and Pabst Mansion trip. Trip was enjoyed by all.
- Coffee Social for Julie Minter's departure is November 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:45 – 9:00 AM.
- Next meeting will be November 6<sup>th</sup> in the Assembly Room of the Catholic Life Center.

**Human Concerns** (Suzy Schmidtke):

- Fourteen people from Blessed Trinity attended the Forty Days for Life Rally the first day. They walked in front of the Planned Parenthood Building in Sheboygan. The second day eight people participated.

**Liturgy** (Kitty Lynne Klich):

- We have not had a meeting. One will be arranged soon according to Father's schedule.

**Stewardship/Community Building** (Deb Hasler):

- Commitment Weekend was October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Lynn Walvoort and Tim Woodworth will be handling the financial responses, doing the counting and the tallying of the envelopes and the second mailing, in November, to those that did not return their Financial Commitment Cards.

- Father Joe felt that a blessing of the basket of envelopes was not necessary because the congregation had already been thanked earlier during the Mass and they were thanked again after Communion.
- The Stewardship Commission had their first new parish member, Mary Fitzpatrick, recognized during Mass. Liz Holtz introduced her.
- Father Joe said that it would not be appropriate to ask the new members to come forward to be blessed during the Mass. It might make them feel uncomfortable to be singled out.
- The Stewardship Commission is still refining the new Time and Talent Booklet. They will be meeting at the Catholic Life Center to put the final touches on it before sending it out to the committee heads to look over for their input on the final product.
- The new booklet is being designed with four areas of stewardship as well as four areas of age groups and family dynamics in order to make the booklet more user friendly.
- The new Time and Talent Booklet will be ready to be released to the congregation February of 2019.

**Building Committee (John Russell):**

- There is a plan that has been brought to the Archdiocese.

**Joint Parish Activities (Jim O'Neill):**

- The council decided to wait until after the Joint Pastoral Council Meeting in November and the Christmas Holidays to address the position of Liaison to the Joint Parish Activities Committee.
- The council is very pleased about the positive dialog between St. John Evangelist and Blessed Trinity Parish regarding the float in the Christmas Parade.
- Father Joe suggested that the subject of a Joint Parish Activities Committee be brought up at the Joint Pastoral Council Meeting in November.

**Finance Council (Kris Raeder):**

- Blessed Trinity is still behind in general revenues. It has not been growing.
- The results of the Financial Commitment Cards will help to determine the cause of the decrease in donations to the church.
- The Finance Council has found that with other charitable organizations the new tax laws have not affected their donations that much.
- The Finance Council is hoping that the main cause of the shortage is the change from the July through June giving period to the January through December time frame.
- The present organ at Blessed Trinity is in need of replacing due to its age and unreliability when it is being played during Mass.
- Music Director, Zach Holzer has been obtaining quotes for the purchase of a new organ.
- The Archdiocese requires at least three quotes before a decision can be made.
- There will be a short fundraiser planned to raise the necessary funds to purchase a new organ.
- Ticket sales for the Autumn Blessings Festival raffle have all been distributed except for 400 out of a total of 5000 tickets. To date, 2450 tickets have been purchased and returned to the Parish Office.
- The Jerry Ziegler Lifetime Achievement Award will be given out at the Autumn Blessings Festival on November 3.

**Archdiocese Planning/Deanery (Jim O'Neill):**

- Next meeting will be Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:**

**Sheboygan Falls Holiday Parade – December 1, 2018 (Steve Faust):**

- Steve Faust reported that they have secured a trailer to use as the float.
- Grant Cotter will be acting as Joseph in the live Nativity Scene on the float.
- Jerry Knier will check to see if his youngest daughter can act as Mary on the float.

- Parents of both children will be riding on the float with them. There also may be some choir members that cannot walk riding on the float sitting on straw bales.
- David Schleicher will be driving his truck to pull the float. A copy of his liability insurance has been submitted to Catholic Mutual Insurance Company.
- More parishioners are needed to walk behind the float to sing and hand out the giveaways.
- Jim O'Neill will make a verbal appeal during the Mass on one weekend leading up to the date of the parade, to ask the parishioners to please join in.
- The Religious Education classes will be creating signage to hang on the side of the float with the theme of celebrating Jesus Christ.
- Candy canes, refrigerator magnets with the regular Mass times for Blessed Trinity and St. John Evangelist on them and postcard-sized cards with the times of the Christmas Masses at both parishes on them, will be passed out to parade goers by the people walking along behind the float during the parade.

**2019 Parish Councils Conference Pre-Conference Consultation on Norms (Jim O'Neill):**

- A document titled, "Consultation on Council Topics", has been passed out to everyone.
- The Archdiocese is looking for input on things that may need to be changed in the Pastoral Council Norms.
- A suggestion was made to change the term for the Youth Reps. One year to 2 years possible (start at age 17 and continue thru age 18). At age 18, the Youth Rep could be considered an adult member of the Pastoral Council.
- Sabryn suggested if her and Jed are not discerned again for another year that they would come back the first meeting with the new youth reps and show them what to do.
- Jim will fill out the form with these ideas/suggestions.
- Suggestions must be put on the Archdiocesan Website by December 31<sup>st</sup> for them to review and present at the 2019 Parish Council Conference on February 2, 2019

**New Business:**

**175.archmil.org (Jim O'Neill):**

- The Archdiocese is celebrating its 175-year beginning the first Sunday after Thanksgiving.
- The new website is: 175.archmil.org
- There are many and varied events being planned throughout the Archdiocese starting Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and continuing through the year of 2019.
- Articles will be put in the Blessed Trinity bulletin to keep parishioners updated on the different events put on the Archdiocese website during the yearlong celebration.

**Lodge Volunteers (Jim O'Neill):**

- Due to the overlapping times of the Religious Education classes, Lisa Gross is looking for volunteers to open The Lodge again. This would be to accommodate the older students while their younger siblings are in class.
- The time commitment would be from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on Wednesday evenings.
- To be a volunteer, you must have completed the Safe Environment Education Program Training.
- To sign up for the training, you must first register your name on the Archdiocesan website. They will conduct a background check on you.
- You will receive your training from Julie Minter or Jeanne Bitkers.
- There must be a minimum of two volunteers per Wednesday night.
- Duties would involve supervising the students' present, making pizzas, cleaning up and locking up the premises when finished.

**Pastoral Council Holiday Gathering (Jim O'Neill):**

- Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at either Paula Inda's or Deb Hasler's home.
- Pastoral Council & staff members, Trustees, with spouses/significant others are invited to attend.
- It will be potluck-style with members bringing a dish and their own beverage of choice.

**November Joint Pastoral Council Meeting (Jim O'Neill):**

- Meal will be served at 6 PM in church hall with meeting to follow at 6:30 PM.
- Soup supper with five varieties of soup, bread, crackers, cheese tray, and desserts will be served. Soda and water will be served to drink.
- Items for Agenda will be: Holiday Parade, Joint Website, Joint Activities Liaison and Joint Activities going forward.
- It was decided that the Joint Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Jim O'Neill will contact Patty Langel from St. John Evangelist to confirm that date will work with their council and get back to us if it does not.

**Amazing Parishes Conference Representatives Presentation (Jim O'Neill):**

- Father Joe, Chris Audino, John O'Dell and Donna Stieghorst attended. Judy Grey from St. John Evangelist could not come due to illness.
- Jim O'Neill would like to invite the four attendees at the conference to the Joint Pastoral Council Meeting of the Pastoral Councils for the meal and to speak for approximately a half hour to share what they took away from the conference.

**Meet & Greet Volunteers for Thanksgiving Weekend (November 24/25) (Sandy Jordan):**

- Saturday, November 24: Jerry Knier and Sunday, November 25: Steve Faust

**Administrator's Report (Father Joe):**

- Father Joe said he wished to thank everyone who took part in attending the Rosary the first ten days of October. He felt it was very well attended each night. There was a tremendous turn out on Wednesday when the children came.
- The Amazing Parish Conference had an attendance of 1200 participants including five bishops, many priests and nuns.
- It was an excellent conference with the main message to all was to pray.
- Father Joe and the three representatives from Blessed Trinity have already begun by holding a meeting each week for one hour of prayer.
- Keeping this thought in mind, Father Joe approached the 23 or so people that attend the Thursday Morning Mass to see if they would be open to having an hour of Adoration following that Mass.
- Beginning in November, Father Joe will have the Adoration after the Thursday Mass. He highly encourages everyone to attend at a minimum of at least once a month if not more.
- Bishop Jim Schuerman and Father Joe will be concelebrating all the Masses at Blessed Trinity and St. John Evangelist the weekend of December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Advent Reconciliation will be held at Blessed Trinity with both Bishop Schuerman and Father Joe from 3 PM until time for Mass. This will allow the parishioners to prepare for Christmas.
- The Archdiocese wants to promote the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation and will be holding a day of Confession on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 8 AM until 8 PM that day. It is for the counties of Sheboygan and Fond du Lac and will take place at the Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac. Father Joe will be one of the many priests hearing Confessions that day.
- Father Joe spoke to Duane Glancey about the ushers being more proactive with being friendly greeting people and opening the doors for them, especially the handicapped, and helping them find seats in the pews.
- St. John Evangelist must be notified that we no longer need anyone to portray Mary or Joseph on the float in the Christmas parade.

- Father Joe has Prayer Cards commemorating the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Archdiocese. The prayer will start on the Feast Day of Christ the King and continue until the Feast Day of Christ the King in 2019. The prayer will be prayed after communion at all Masses.
- On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the staff from Blessed Trinity and St. John Evangelist will be going on a pilgrimage. They will be going together by bus to visit the Cathedral of St. John Evangelist, lunch at the Milwaukee Art Museum, drive by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, visit the Basilica of St. Josaphat, and conclude with a visit to Fr. Joe's Pallotti House.
- A second proposal was presented to Father Joe with regard to a joint website. The presentation shows the priest in the middle with a picture of each parish on each side. Father asks that there be a Mass schedule and directions to that parish when the viewer clicks on whichever church they want to visit. Each parish will be responsible for keeping their website updated on the joint website. Father is pleased with how the question of separate websites has been resolved.
- Father Joe will ask the parishioners of Blessed Trinity and St. John Evangelist during a Mass, for the parishioners to please enjoy some quiet time before the Mass begins.

**Closing Prayer:** "Our Father"

**Adjournment:** 8:05 PM

**Important Dates**

- Autumn Blessings Festival – November 3, 2018
- Social Sunday/Bulletin Article
  - November 18, 2018 – Religious Education/Youth & Young Adult Ministry – Ruth Pedroni
  - November 5, 2018 – Bulletin article due to sandy@btsje.org
- Next Pastoral Council Meeting: **TUESDAY**, November 20, 2018, in Church Hall
  - Joint with St. John Evangelist
  - Dinner at 6:00 PM, Meeting at 6:30 PM
  - Opening prayer – Suzy Schmidtke
  - No committee presentation
- 2019 Parish Councils Conference – February 2, 2019
- Meet and Greet Schedule: Refer to monthly Lay Ministry Schedule ([www.btsje.org](http://www.btsje.org) > Blessed Trinity > Lay Ministries)