

**Blessed Trinity Parish**  
**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

**Present:** Fr. Joe Dominic, Jim O'Neill, Deb Hasler (minutes), Jerry Knier, Steve Faust, Sabryn Bley, Suzy Schmidtke, Kris Raeder, & Sandy Jordan (Staff)

**Excused:** Paula Inda, Ruth Pedroni, Jed Walleser, John Russell, Kitty Klich, & Joe Stauber

**Opening Prayer:** Led by Jim O'Neill

**Conversation with attendees of Amazing Parish Conference** (Chris Audino, John O'Dell, & Donna Stieghorst)

All three thought the event was a transformative experience:

- Chris: The Leadership team of Chris, John and Donna will work with Fr. Joe, Blessed Trinity staff and volunteers to Evangelize.
- Donna: The most important thing is prayer; coming together in prayer to revitalize our parish. The team set a goal to pray together once per week.
- John: Priest are men/people who need relationships with parishioners and personal relationships. There was a young priest at the conference who had a great team around him. We are all part of a church; a team and we are Fr. Joe's "bench" to be called on to support him. Delegating some things to others will help Fr. Joe do what needs to be done and what he wants to do; we want to help free up our priest.
- Difficult to be a priest. We all need to help the priest evangelize and move the church forward; free up Fr. Joe from maintenance in order to do more mission (evangelizing).
- Need to think of ways to re-energize the church, this task is too much to ask of 1 person (the priest).
- Most priests don't want administration to be a priority in their job; they would like to be more free from administrative duties .... This is where we can help.
- Adoration experience was amazing.
- Sponsors of the Archdiocese paid for the event.
- Fr. Joe stated that as a result of the conference, Blessed Trinity began adopting prayer with Adoration every Thursday in November. Now he changed Adoration to the first Thursday of every month. Adoration will take place after the morning Mass for about one hour.
- Fr. Joe commented that we should be mission-oriented people, otherwise we will fall apart. Without prayer no individuals, families or parishes can survive; it is all about evangelization. He asked that we engage in more things but try to implement things slowly.
- The current Blessed Trinity Team trusts each other now that they have gone through a sharing experience at the conference. Books read by Patrick Lencioni have been inspiring. New Team Members will slowly evolve.
- Jim O'Neill asked if there was anything our Pastoral Council can do. We were asked to be another line of communication from Fr. Joe to the Team. We were also asked to collaborate with the staff.
- Fr. Joe stated that our parish mission is to spread the word of God, to evangelize. Being a part of the Pastoral Council meetings is an example of a way to evangelize.
- Fr. Joe stated that 20 "family units" have left Blessed Trinity since he started his service here.
- Fr. Joe asked us to recognize that every act you do that is motivated by faith is Evangelization. How can we strengthen, gain tremendous momentum and take it to the next level? Our church will die with a "sleepy attitude," we have to be proactive, not satisfied. For example: repair of the church.
- Chris mentioned that the Knights of Columbus is here to support the parish as well; this group can be asked to help.
- The Pastoral Council thanked the Team for their commitment.

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

Steve Faust motioned to approve the Agenda. Suzy Schmidtke seconded it. Agenda approved.

**Approval of October 25, 2018 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes:** (Jim O'Neill)

Suzy Schmidtke motioned to approve the Minutes. Steve Faust seconded it. Minutes approved.

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

Steve Faust motioned to approve the Minutes. Suzy Schmidtke seconded it. Minutes approved.

**Commission/Committee Reports – Highlights:**

**Evangelization:** (Paula Inda)

- Suzy Barrock from St. John Evangelist (SJE) and Paula met on December 12, 2018. Christmas cards will be distributed beginning the weekend of December 14<sup>th</sup> through the following week. SJE will mail them, but Paula will try to drop the cards off in person. If Paula runs out of time, they will be mailed. Paula thanked Sandy Jordan for providing addresses of current parishioners.
- Along with a Merry Christmas wish, magnets and Mass schedules intended for distribution during the parade will be included in the cards as well as coupons from Texas Roadhouse.

**Religious Education/ Youth and Young Adult Ministry:** (Ruth Pedroni)

- No report – Ruth is recovering from surgery.

**Catholic Life Center:** (Steve Faust and John O'Dell)

- November 6, 2018—John O'Dell was introduced to take over for Julie Minter. John says things will remain unchanged for the most part as many things are already in place. John is excited to begin, and Julie is confident in his ability.
- John would like to focus on how we can get other people involved in the CLC, with a focus on the “parental group” ... 40+ age group.
- A Suggestion Box near the Usher's Room in the church entrance will be used to gather ideas.
- Electronic Communication will also be a focus to communicate with the younger age groups.
- December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was John's first as head of the CLC. New ideas were generated by the CLC Committee. John will review them and determine their feasibility. They also discussed how the CLC will work on the new church website.
- John feels the CLC is currently stereotyped for retirees. He feels evening and weekend events are needed to draw the 40's and 50's age group to attend. One idea was a wine and cheese tasting event on a Friday night sometime in the Fall.
- Fr. Joe feels a focus on the 40+ age group is a great idea. He also feels the wine and cheese event will be a beautiful way to evangelize.

**Human Concerns:** (Suzy Schmidtke)

- Blessed Trinity supplied the names of 17 people to the Thanksgiving Food Box Outreach run by the Sheboygan Northside Catholic Parishes.
- 40 people were served at the Good Shephard Meal in November. There is still no replacement for Joan Schueffner who is stepping down as the chef.
- “Gifts for Baby Jesus” were coordinated with the Religious Ed Program.
- Mary's Room is in need of 2T, 3T and 4T Jackets.
- Three projects being considered for Lenten Almsgiving: Kohler water filters for Third World Countries, Safe Water for Life & Dignity (well drilling) or the Samaritans Hand/Sober House (local).

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

- Financial Stewardship is completed. Pledges were better than ever historically with 365 families pledging.
- Currently, finalizing the Time and Talent Book which will be distributed in February 2019.
- At the last meeting, the commission assembled more New Member Bags. The commission needs to purchase more Chamber Bucks to go into the bags. It was determined that there is currently no budget for the Stewardship Commission. Lynn Walvoort will set up a budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The Stewardship Commission will discuss the amount for the budget at their January meeting.
- The commission is looking for ideas, suggestions on what to focus on next. Kris Raeder suggested the commission consider working together with the Evangelization Committee and help support this committee.

**Building Committee:** (Fr. Joe)

- Brainstorming session was held to discuss project ideas and come up with the best plan available. Once the plan is done, a quote for the cost of the project will be prepared.
- The Zimmerman Group stated that the water situation must be taken care of and will be separate from the Renovation Project.
- The Renovation Plan and the approximate cost will be provided to parishioners after a feasibility study has been conducted.

**Finance Council:** (Jerry Knier/Kris Raeder)

- Autumn Blessings event netted a \$12,000 profit.

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

- October meeting: Archdiocese's plan for dealing with an active shooter in church is still being studied.
- Caring Parish Program was discussed. A vibrant parish takes under its wing a struggling parish. This name has now been changed to Companion Parish Program.
- In conjunction with the year-long 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, the Archdiocese will have a "7 Days of Service" Program.
- Over the past 35 years, the Archdiocese has averaged 4 newly ordained priests per year. If this pattern continues, there will be no reduction in priest placement.
- Bishop Jim Schuerman's quote: "*Pastoral Councils working together is the key to parishes working together.*"

**Old Business:**

**Sheboygan Falls Holiday Parade, Dec. 1, 2018:** (Jim O'Neill)

- Parade was cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Parishioner Interest seemed high.
- Materials will be stored and used for next year. The theme will be the same as this year.
- Able to create float with costs under the budget of \$200.

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

- Jim will submit our proposed changes to the Council Norms Section 3.5 found below. The vote will take place on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Conference:
  - Parish Pastoral Council Norms Section 3.5 currently reads as follows:  
**3.5** Parishes have the option to select youth representation. A youth representative must be at least 14 years of age but not yet 18, whose parents are registered members, and shall be selected annually from and by the youth members of the parish.
  - Proposed change:  
**3.5** Parishes have the option to select youth representation. A youth representative must be at least 14 years of age, but not yet 18 years of age, when starting their term, the child of parents who are registered parish members, and shall be selected annually from and by the youth members of the parish. The term for a youth representative shall be one year and shall be limited to two consecutive terms. The council may extend by two months the term of a youth representative not renewing his/her term so that he/she may work to help acclimate his/her replacement.
- The Pastoral Council discussed and voted on the Proposed Practices for Training New Council Members. We chose the second preference: *Continue to develop on-demand **video training** which can be used by individual or in groups with a printout certificate.* Jim will submit this choice on December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Pastoral Council discussed and voted on the Proposed Retreat Practices for Councils. We chose the second preference: *Parishes can plan and prepare their **own retreats.*** Jim will submit this choice on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

- More volunteers are needed so a regular schedule can be put together. Let Lisa Gross know of any names.
- 2 volunteers at a time are required for supervision.
- Volunteers would be at The Lodge from 4:45-6:45 pm and will need to have Safe Environment Training.

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

- Saturday, January 12, 2019.
- An e-mail will be sent out for what people should bring.
- Parish staff members and spouses/significant others are also invited.

**New Business:**

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

- At the Joint Council Meeting in November, Matt Meyer of SJE recommended that the Vice-Chair of each council act as a "liaison" to keep both parishes up-to-date on the other's activities and share any ideas for joint parish activities.
- Jim O'Neill proposed a joint parish directory:
  - The last directory was a joint parish directory. Photography done in May/June 2014. The directory was distributed in February 2015.
  - Sandy Jordan suggested not to use the photographer from the last directory. There was a lot of extra work for Carol/Sandy to do.
  - Sandy Jordan recommended Life Touch Photography:
    - There is no cost to the parishes.
    - Parishioners that get their picture taken receive a free directory and a free 8X10.
  - Form a committee consisting of a couple people from each Pastoral Council and 1 staff member from each parish (Sandy and Gretchen).
  - Deb Hasler will e-mail Matt Meyer with the proposal for him to bring up at the next SJE Pastoral Council Meeting for approval.

**Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land:** (Jim O'Neill)

- A parishioner asked Jim O'Neill to bring this idea to the council for discussion:
  - Christopher West is the founder and instructor for Core Project. He does a presentation based on a blog discussion by St. John Paul II, Theology of the Body.
  - It was suggested that Blessed Trinity could be the head parish sponsor of this presentation and could work with 3 other co-sponsors to bring this presentation to the Sheboygan area.
  - Jim will send Pastoral Council members a link to view before the next meeting.
  - Discussion was tabled and will be put on the January agenda.

**Meet & Greet Volunteers for Christmas and New Year's Weekends:** (Sandy Jordan)

- December 22/23: Jim O'Neill/Kris Raeder
- December 29/30: Suzy Schmidtke/Jerry Knier

**Administrator's Report:** (Fr. Joe)

- Christmas Masses are all set.
- An update on the Website was given:
  - Steve Kovacs, Tim Woodworth and Lynn Walvoort have had 2 meetings and the New Plan is good to go. In January, the New Website will be up and running with a Landing Site and separate websites for each parish.
  - It may be cumbersome in the beginning but may end up being a good thing. There will be a reduction in bulletins.

- Committees will be asked to provide information for the website:
  - Heads of the committees are asked to write something pertaining to their committee.
  - A decision on how much or how often it needs to be updated has not yet been made.
  - Information for Blessed Trinity will be submitted to Lynn Walvoort and Tim Woodworth.
- Liaisons to the committees are asked to inform committee heads about their new role.
- Fr. Joe will be gone in February for 3 weeks.

**Closing Prayer:** Singing of “Silent Night”

**Important Dates:**

- December 15, 2018 – Christmas Cookie Sale, Blessed Trinity Church Gathering Area, 9:00 AM to noon
- December 30, 2018 – Celebration of Susan Vavra at St. John Evangelist following 9:00 AM Mass
- Social Sunday/Bulletin Article
  - January 13, 2019, following 10:30 AM Mass – Liturgy, Worship, & Environment – Kitty Lynne Klich
  - December 31, 2018 – Bulletin article due to [sandy@btsje.org](mailto:sandy@btsje.org)
- Next Pastoral Council Meeting
  - January 24, 2019, 6:30 PM, Catholic Life Center Assembly Room
  - Opening prayer – John Russell
  - Committee presentation – Liturgy, Worship, & Environment – Zach Holzer
- Sunday, January 20, 2019 – St. John Evangelist Winterfest
- February 2, 2019 – 2019 Parish Councils Conference
- March 2, 2019 – Trivia Night
- Meet and Greet Schedule: Refer to monthly Lay Ministry Schedule ([www.btsje.org](http://www.btsje.org) > Blessed Trinity > Lay Ministries)