

Saint James the Greater
Pastoral Council Meeting
January 7, 2015

Judy Damico, Joe Schneider, Mary Jo Meiners, Tim Crooker, Fr. Tozi, Fr. Nolker, Beth Gideon, Laura White, Tim Meyer, Mark Russell

Opening Prayer

Christ at the Center: Faith Formation

Reading: Mark 1:7-11 (Gospel for the Baptism of the Lord)

Reflection: How do I concretely share in Jesus' ministry of prayer, proclamation, and service because of my own baptism?

We are all here; we all do some kind of service. I was baptized as a child, so it is not like in this passage. Because of my baptism everything we do is part of a ministry of service. The Athletic portion has the role ...of pulling people together as a community of faith. The prayer part and service part are easier sometimes than the proclaiming part. Being a parent and how you raise kids, and what you teach them is a part of proclamation. As a single person and in the workplace you can also proclaim. Being invited and participating in church activities. God has given us the gift to share this ministry to all we meet.

Athletic Club Report: Athletic Board: Andrew Deitschel, John Griffiths Rick Porotsky

This will review the programs of the Athletic Club and the implementation of the Charter on Youth Athletics. (To access the Charter, go to catholiccincinnati.org; choose Youth Ministry under Ministries & Offices; the charter is on the bottom left of the page.)

Recently there has been a charter on the youth athletic activities in the Archdiocese. There is an entire booklet with guidelines and directives (see above italics info about how to see this online). Addresses issues like good sportsmanship. Having good coaches and leaders, having teams fairly organized. The good news is that we have been doing most of these all along. No games on Sundays before 1 pm. No games on holidays. Make sure the coaches and anyone involved is good people, are complying with VIRTUS. Parishioner John Klare was part of the commission who put a lot of these things (charter) together; so we were already aware of and implementing things prior to being officially directed to do so.

Rick Porotsky: We should be proud of our Athletic Club and that there are many people of value. The intent of this charter is that youth are highly involved in sports, and the sports can get out of hand. The question is how do you reach those people who may not be fully on board with the directives? And this charter can be interpreted by those people as negative. This charter has a code of conduct to direct the behavior of the students and the adults, and the actions we may take with respect to the school if a child misbehaves on the sports side. We inform new coaches of these principals. We try to pair new

coaches with experienced coaches whenever possible. We don't give coaches the entire booklet, but it may be a good idea to give them the "Cliff Notes" version. I appreciate seeing my kids pray. It calms them. The thing I find the most is that the parents are more of a problem, not the kids. The parents sometimes will ramp up, and the kids feed off of them. At the beginning of every season, I know the parents meet with the coaches; this would be a good time for the coaches to share the summary version. I like the code of conduct. When you sign your kids up now for a team, you have to check through boxes about your status, VIRTUS, code of conduct. Do coaches get harassed? Sometimes. The overall acceptance of the charter is good. There is some resistance to the Virtus program. People don't have a good understanding of what is in it, so you have to explain it to people. An example is that a child up to 6th grade should be given equal playing time. Peoples' interpretation of this is highly variable. And this will be a process of figuring things out, and someone in position of authority making some final rulings. Overall, we have been following the charter, in our own way, even before it was officially written.

This puts athletics back in the diocese back where it had been, as a ministry of the church, (before CYO was spun off as a private entity).

This also lays a common expectation among the entire diocese.

St. James boy sports: Football, golf, soccer, baseball, track, volleyball, basketball
80-90 kids playing football. Numbers have been dropping. Combined teams now (more than 1 grade on a team)

140 baseball

St. James girl: Volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, track, cheerleading

Soccer is new. Has worked out well

Baseball/soccer is teams where kids leave for select teams at younger and younger ages. This dominates your life to the exclusion of other things, including faith and church. My goal is to try to find coaches who are knowledgeable and of high quality, so kids can stay with St James teams.

We are lucky that we have coaches who stick around after their kids are gone, and they are quality coaches.

Every kid who tries out makes a team. This is not how it used to be. The A teams are coached by non parents to avoid issues.

If we did merge our sports with other schools, we don't know how it exactly would work. We have invited smaller schools to join our teams, but hasn't happened yet. We would talk to those who have already done it to see how it would go.

It is a very informal process, but it works.

Our Lady of Grace has Cross Country Team, and other school kids are invited to join.

With the merging of parishes, the schools have taken over the direction of athletics from the parishes.

I think that those involved in the Athletic Club should be commended, and their spouses, for working hard on the logistics and scheduling, and keeping faith in the forefront. You should be commended.

Financially things are good. Some of our sports lose money. We have to do fundraisers to generate money. Boosters, Banners at the field, Aluminum cans. Every 3 years, need to buy new uniforms (\$90 a piece). We have money in the bank. Golf outing coming up.

Policy for Financial Activities: Fr. Nolker

A copy of the Policy is attached. It was written pre 2002. It is sent each year to parish organizations. The number of fund raisers has increased greatly. This will be an explanation of the current concerns with the Policy and discussion of Council's recommendations will happen at the February meeting.

Amy Klosterman has asked for this to be reviewed. Is an old policy; from 2002. A lot of it is no longer being followed. To put this in perspective, there are 17 PTO fundraisers, 3 parish items, 3 school items. The concern is that you can only go to the well so many times. The PTO Christmas Ham Sale raised \$100. The Thanksgiving one did better. The Question has come up, is there a different way to fund what they want to do; Michelle Hinton has been asked to just ask if there are other ways. The same families are asked many times for money.

They have a very sizeable off-budget. And parents will give for these school activities and not support the parish. People are now being solicited for large sums of money for the school. You don't see anything on this "St. James Fundraisers" sheet for the Ladies Society, Life Group, CMA, capital campaign, etc. The original thought was that no group could do no more than 2 fundraisers per year. The plan was for finance commission to appoint a coordinator of Fundraisers. Partly to coordinate when/how fundraisers would be held, and also to get a handle on what fundraisers were occurring. I ask you to look at this and mull it over, and to (as we have done in other situations) appoint a committee to study it and give suggestions. There are many small pots of money over at the school that do not go through the parish office. This has been brought up from the auditor who was here recently. There is a tax issue with these donations not run through the parish.

1:7 ratio parish to school fundraisers; and that ratio is likely larger. Does the school have the people to run all of these? Seems like PTO should evaluate their fundraisers, how successful they are, and to pare it down.

There has to be a handle on when and how many fundraisers are happening. Other organizations are competing for similar fundraisers (these people sold X successfully, now we are going to do it).

PTO constantly views their fundraisers and adjusts. A long term study of this issue may include the effectiveness of their chosen fundraisers, and exactly what is being funded with the proceeds. And it seems that there should be a handle of the calendar; i.e. having Christian Service contact the groups and ask what fundraisers they have, when, and what do you spend the money on? Someone came in today and said they have some money, and didn't know what to do with it. Another thing: Met with chair of Education Commission: ED Commission should not be doing fundraisers (Votto lotto, World Series tickets). They are a policy-making group.

There is a difference in going out and soliciting and "passing the hat."

Parents feel overwhelmed. As a parent, you can only do so much. Something like Box Tops is easy money. As a parent, it would in a way be easier to just let me know at the beginning of the year how much extra I have to pay, and let me write the check and be done with it.

Some parishes have gone or are going to one major fundraiser. If we need this amount of money to run the school, let's just add it to the tuition. But this puts the burden only on the school families. We have never been good at involving the parish to get behind one major fundraiser.

Have a financial policy which is the way things need to be. Then you also have a fundraising policy. Looking at the schedule and creating parity among organizations. Fr Tom will contact Christian service, ask them to contact all organizations, and ask what the \$ goes for.

This item is a multi month thing. Let's talk about it again next month.

Living the Eucharist is the Faith Formation chosen by PC. One set per school family. It is lectionary based (we are currently in cycle B), bulletin inserts, Family activity booklets, book; Read, answer questions, discuss. Signup Jan 17-18, and 24-25. Sign ups end Feb 5th. Can be in small groups or individuals. Recruiting leaders for the small groups. Small groups. Joe to inform the Father's Group. PC Picked this series, so we should support it and get behind it. Will happen during Lent. This is once/week for half hour. Hopefully more school parents will participate. Family booklets will be sent through the school. And PSR families. This program gives the feeling/perspective that anyone can participate, even if not a part of a small group. The insert (2 pages back to back) will be in the bulletin for 6 weeks.

Lectors and Eucharist have been invited to a meeting about their part in Living the Eucharist:

Sunday January 11th at 1

Saturday 17th at 9:30

Pastor Comments

Confirmation is next week; pray for these young people

Anniversary mass and brunch 10 o'clock mass Feb 15th. Brunch will be held after anniversary mass. 25th, 50th, 60th anniversaries and above. Need someone to organize the brunch. Beth Gideon agrees to do this.

Archdiocesan Fund Drive: As of Dec 31st, the priests of the archdiocese....31 priests have donated gave 2 million dollars. Total Raised 23 mil of the 130 million targeted. In the 10 pilot parishes, they met 102% of their goal and have even surpassed. This is a 5 year pledge. Can be in your will. Contacting some parishioners personally and talking to them, asking for commitments. From 3 people, \$200,000 donated. The fund drive will go to the full parish on March 1st. We will be hearing more and more on this in the parish. No idea that picked the books that were given out at Christmas...

Meeting Conclusion

Next Meeting, February 4th, 2015

Respectfully Submitted, Jenny Gandenberger