

Pastoral Council Meeting May 15, 2013  
7:00 pm  
Council Room

Craig Baston, Barry Bruns, Conni Weaver, Fr. Nolker, Fr. Tozzi, Pete Looby, Devin Sillies, MaryJo Meiners, Judy D'Amico, Beth Gideon, Cindy Bosse

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Faith Formation: First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12:3-7.12-13**

In a literal sense, just finished the discernment process; all the volunteers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers. We need to get better at bringing all different generations together in common groups, consistently. Shared experiences on a community basis. Could be revitalization. The gift of leadership. Comes in so many different forms. Some people can lead in gentle/humble ways. It is not off-putting. They seem to have a vision of what is needed, too.

This was seen when the old church was cleaned out; a group of people from different backgrounds/ generations working for a common goal. The festival is another example. Less is accomplished with a big boisterous leader. Last week a group of Boy Scouts came with their leaders to help put things back into the church. And the boys worked together and figured out who should do what, and how to accomplish each task. It was fun to watch.

In terms of identifying, a person may not see a trait in themselves; would be a good idea to invite them to be a part of whatever, as their gift is recognized.

Watching and being a part of the group that gets the festival stuff out of storage, all those people working together. This happens in various capacities at St. James all the time.

This attitude starts in the home....parents behavior, volunteering, and praying.

2<sup>nd</sup> Questions: The song, "we are many parts..." that's what I keep thinking when I read this passage.

A variety is also seen in our most recent pontiffs. Their specific personalities were needed at the time they served.

We need to ask people at times, as we see a value in a person; sometimes we don't reach out. The other side of that is people can be pigeon-holed....."oh, she's good at -----, "

Trying to be conscious of that. People will ask me to do things, and I tend to say no, because I don't think I would enjoy that, ..or it's out of my comfort zone. But if I allow myself to be open to the opportunity presented, I usually enjoy and benefit from being a part.

I wish I could pick someone with a louder voice than all the negativity in the media.

Pope Francis is such a voice for the poor. And he speaks very plainly. He is relatable. He's talking about things we have ignored in recent years, and he talks in an easily understandable way. He lives a simple life. Somewhat. We don't have Bishop Sheen any more, with his weekly TV program. It's also how things are spun and reported. It's up to us, we all have mouths. There are great comments on Facebook about the new church, the video, so many good comments. John's Klare's video will be on the website soon.

**Do I appreciate the Gifts?...** I am getting better than I used to. Sometimes I'm afraid . to expose myself.

At all these different parishes in this city, this state, this country, people are there all searching to hear the good news.

**Council Membership:** Michael Harlow and Joe Schneider will be joining.  
. Devin Sillies is returning.

**School Report:** Michelle Hinton, principal St. James School. Brief bio: Westsider, Mother of Mercy High School, Miami. Went into Banking first, then teacher. Assistant Principal last year, Principal this year. Husband is a principal also. Michelle and her husband have a young son.

Good year amidst a very challenging year.

Changing focus from teacher led to student led. Planning more to the learning-need side. Focus is on professional learning communities.

Focusing on what the students need to learn and accomplish what they need to know.

Feedback: Students leaving St. James lack writing skills. This is one focus. Writing samples are completed 3 times a year. These are then analyzed to determine strengths and weaknesses.

Marketing in process.

610 students for next year.

Professional Development: Archdiocese has rewritten both the Math and Language Arts curriculums. Teachers have gone to some training. Trying to incorporate the Catholic identity in the teaching.

Curriculum: Cross-grade and cross-topic learning. Kids get to choose which specials class they would prefer.

Looking Forward to 2013-2014: Continuation of Professional Learning Communities. Retreat for teachers. Laptops purchased for the teachers; iPads for K-3 classrooms.

Curriculum: Cross-curricular work, integration of new graded course of study in Math and Language Arts. Continued emphasis on writing.

Student Enrichment: Prime goal is Faith in Action

Glad to hear talk about student enrichment programs. Parents prepare their kids well for grade school. The biggest barrier for the kids is the lack of the inferential aspect of learning. They are literal; want the answers, and not necessarily the process of how to figure it out or support their answer. It is not too late to develop this thought process, and the teachers focus on it. Students have remarked that there is more fun in the classroom.

A possible enrichment activity is adopt an elderly pen pal.

I find it interesting watching how things develop. The PLCs, and the development about them has been fun to watch. And to walk through the school and listen to the lessons and how things are integrated...it takes a lot of leadership and a lot of work.

In my many years having kids at school, the school is in the best shape it has ever been in. Have heard nothing but great things about Michelle. Michelle states she loves her job, loves what she does.

There is room for improvement in terms of Catholic identity on a regular basis at St. James. What is Catholic Identity? Michelle thinks it is faith alive. For someone to be able to walk through the school and know it is a Catholic school. Beginning the school day, and classes, with prayer. How students interact, how they behave, ...there's an atmosphere. It is different than a public school setting. More prevalent in the last couple weeks. Even though the "Catholic Identity" can't be defined, it is important to keep on talking about it, making it the forefront of what we do. May be good to seek some high-schoolers' opinions about what was positive and negative about their time at St. James

**Pastor's Comments:**

The school windows: in the first week of June. Received an email that the work was underbid by 100,000. Had to renegotiate a new price. Hubble road windows first. New doors. Will have Mullions. ( Post in center of the 2 doors.) Doors can lock at top and bottom. This solves a security problem. July 22<sup>nd</sup> windows finished. Teachers back mid August.  
Youth: St. James youth Ministry will have their first picnic at the fields.  
Posters in all High School

12 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade distributors  
8 readers  
1 usher

Festival is Coming. Will be looking for helpers.

Fish Fry: Need more people to step-up into leadership positions. Feel they need different and new people to take over.

Change of PC Meeting night. Can the night be moved to another night; same day, different week. Starting in August.....**First Wednesday of the month—new schedule for Pastoral Council, starting in August.**

**Night Prayer**

**Next Meeting August 7, 2013**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jenny Gandenberger**