

Saint James the Greater  
Pastoral Council Meeting  
May 6, 2015 7pm  
Council Room

Beth Gideon, Deacon Tim Crooker, Fr. Nolker, Fr. Tozzi, Pam Collins, Joe Schneider, Laura White, MaryJo Reiners, Michael Harlow, Tim Meyer, Judy Damico

**I. Opening Prayer**

**II. Christ at the Center: Faith Formation:** Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 (first reading for May 10, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)

**Reflection Question:** When do you think people have been surprised at the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

I have a hard time with the “when” of this question? Then change it. What about asking “why” instead of “when”? At confirmation you receive the spirit to get through this crazy life. God is working in people’s lives who aren’t baptized, leading them to himself. What brings people to the church? ...coming here to become baptized? The Holy Spirit calls and draws all people and leads them into the sacramental life of the Holy Spirit. Takes more work to nudge us to accept all people. When you volunteer to help others you think you are helping this other person, but typically I am the one who receives the bigger gift. My dad was never baptized until shortly before he died, mom raised us Catholic, and after all those years, He brought my dad to Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And he was able to have the sacraments and a mass. I think the world is surprised to see the evidence of the Holy Spirit through the words of the Pope. More people are aware of God the Father, and God the Son. Harder to focus on God the Holy Spirit- what does he/she do?

Discernment is listening to the Holy Spirit. Because we don’t focus on the Holy Spirit, we don’t look for a presence of the Holy Spirit. It’s “Luck”, or “Providence”. We are surprised a lot when things go a certain way in the course of human events. The guidance of the spirit we think has brought all these people into their vocation in life. I know the Holy Spirit works in my life.

**III. Suggestions for Adult Faith Formation – Nic Kovatch**

*As he plans the schedule for adult faith formation next year, Nic is asking Council to make recommendations of topics he might include in the programs. At this meeting Council will be asked to offer their ideas about what parishioners might need/want to be included in the schedule. Please be prepared to present the topic you suggest and any explanation needed.*

Good turnout for the past faith formation-Living the Eucharist, ~ 150 people in small groups. Hoping to publicize again, including greater outreach to the schools. Will ask people who participated in Living the Eucharist to invite one other person. All the

members of the “Living the Eucharist” committee have opted to stay on. The main critique on participant evaluations was the wish that it could have gone on longer. Some school families came to Fr. Tozzi and were involved in the program, and seemed to enjoy it. No idea how many school families participated. Nic is asking PC for ideas of faith formations going forward. Living the Eucharist will continue next year.

Fr. Nolker gave a wonderful series on Church History, and I love to continue to learn...who knows about the Acts of the Apostles?

Nic is doing a Catholicism 101 series over the summer, 6 week series, Monday evenings 7-8:30, June 8<sup>th</sup>- start date. This should be in the bulletin, and will start to be announced at mass.

Some basic reminders could be put in the bulletins about some basic things: when to bow, do you bless yourself with Holy Water as you go in and leave? What about an adult church tour?

At times, there are no written rules per se; it’s just that it has been done this way for many years. The rules that do exist are often written for more traditionally designed churches. The Ascension is coming up, and we will talk about it, but that is just a small part; Faith formation, and growing in our knowledge is up to us. If anyone has any other ideas for adult faith formation, get in contact with Nic.

#### **IV. Principal’s Annual Report – Michelle Hinton**

We just completed our accreditation process. We looked at and revised our Vision. We have developed a Vision Statement-done with a rep from every grade level and from the “specials” group. The school’s Vision Statement includes 3 pieces: faith, academics and service, so that they can be disciples to others. Our mission is to put faith first. All of our staff members will be models of Christ. Every teacher on staff is Catholic. We have been invited to participate in “School of Faith”, a program providing guidance to teachers in how to be a catholic educator. This includes a spiritual piece, prayer, and living that out. A few teachers from St. James will be going to the Holy Land this summer. The kids will benefit from our teachers being more immersed in their faith. How do we support parents as the primary educators of the faith to their children? Teaching kids how to be citizens in the world, to think critically. We wrote commitment statements about how we are committed to Faith, Love, and Learning. Looking to next year: long range plans for the school; student needs, facilities needs.

Two goals were developed as part of accreditation: 1.Catholic Identity – and to be able to live this in their life. 2. Academic Excellence.

PC Input:

It was great that the school was sending information home about what was going on in the school in terms of Catholic education.

2 staff members leaving: one to follow a fiancé and 1 staying home after a baby.

Librarian is retiring. Enrollment 532; budgeted for 530. Low number in Kindergarten, can’t really pinpoint why. School enrollment is now at 560. Graduating our biggest class this year-80. Last year was 100. We have kids from 9 school districts. The lower numbers are the trend in general. Northwest district is struggling. There are no big developments in this area, which would likely result in an increase in enrollment. 7% of our school kids are non-Catholic. We don’t participate in the voucher program. Some schools have placed caps on the percentage of non Catholic students.

## **V. Discernment for New Members – Deacon Crooker**

Nancy Thomas-discerning PC member. (Gene Helfrich was also there to discern but had to leave before this portion of the meeting.) PC members introduce themselves and inform about their experience on PC.

PC is an advisory body to the pastor. It is a ministry. There is the expectation that the commitment is taken seriously, that people make it to the meetings. Next Wednesday, same time, all the potential discerning members will come back.

## **VI. Pastor's Comments – Fr. Nolker**

--Fr. Tozzi is with us for another year. This will be completely "official" by tomorrow night.

--One Faith, One Hope, One Love Archdiocesan Endowment Drive: concludes on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Phone calls are being made for people to bring in their pledge cards. Almost \$30,000 has come in through phone calls. As of last night: 1 mil, 50 thousand has been pledged. Our hope is to reach 1.2 million before the in-pew solicitation on May 17. Our total goal: 1.4 million. The 20% of our fund drive will be used to pay off our debt. The rest will be used for the cemetery. All parishes seem to be doing well in this drive; some parishes are above 100% of the goal set. The Archbishop himself-his personal contacts-has raised 20 million. Our parish is so very generous. It is overwhelming. The Holy Spirit is at work!

--Parish Fund Drive: 1.5 million. We now have less than a \$70,000 debt. Met our pledge of 1.5 million. Our default is .009%. We have collected all but 13,000 from 1.5 million. All those who gave big gifts, stated that they reflected in prayer about how to use their wealth.

--Michelle did not mention that the Education Commission is changing their name. Now is The St. James School Advisory Committee. They are re writing their mission statement.

--Letter from Archbishop Schnurr: Fr. Nolker read this letter which is about the effects of the anticipated Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage.. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act has defined religion very narrowly to Catechesis. Now, if the Court approves same sex marriage, the administration has already said parishes and religious schools could lose tax exempt status if they do not accept same-sex marriage. The Court's term ends in June, and they will likely wait until the very end of their term to publish a decision on this issue. Pay attention, pray over this issue.

--Do we want to have a June Meeting? There aren't many issues, so it was decided not to have a meeting. We do need to schedule welcoming of new members, followed by light refreshments/snacks following. Possible dates: May 30, June 13, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

{The Blessing of Council will be May 30 at the 4:30 Mass with refreshments afterwards. The discernment night was not held since Nancy Thomas was the only person who would have been through both sessions of discernment. She will be appointed to Council.}

## **VI. Night Prayer**

**Next Meeting: August 5**

Respectfully Submitted, Jenny Gandenberger