

St. James the Greater
Pastoral Council Meeting
August 5, 2015
7 pm

Judy Damico, Devin Sillies, Pam Collins, Mike Harlow, Fr. Nolker, Fr. Tozzi, Joe Schneider, Deacon Crooker, Mike Harlow, Nancy Thomas, Mark Russell

I. Opening Prayer

II. Christ at the Center: Faith Formation

Reading: The Gospel of John, 6:41-51 (Gospel for August 9)

Reflection: How has the Bread of Life helped me in a difficult situation?

When I read this question, I wasn't necessarily thinking of it during difficult times. I feel the awareness of the Lord with me through the difficult times.

I relate it to a difficult situation: My husband died two months ago. I had to put total trust in God. And in the readings I feel peace that my husband was able to go directly with God, and I feel such comfort in this. I love these questions.

Our humanness responds to tangible things; to receive the body of Christ, and experience the intimacy of that time with Christ. It is such a privilege. It always feels like there is something missing when I attend a funeral without a mass. Something is missing without the Eucharist at mass. When going through a rough time you doubt yourself. Eucharist reminds me that God's grace is attainable to me if I am open to it. It is a comforting feeling in a time of sorrow. When we have had challenges in my family I have gone to Eucharist Adoration. To be able to spend that time in peace and adoration really meant a lot. When someone is homebound, and you see how much it means to them to receive the Eucharist; it gives them hope and strength.

When I was a kid, "Sr. Mary Holy Water" told us that Jesus is present with you only while it was on your tongue. So you had to get all your prayers in before the host dissolved.

Times have changed. In earlier years you couldn't drink even a drop of water from midnight until after you went to mass.

III. Annual Reports --Pastoral Report for 2014-2015

Who Are We? We have more people age 66 and above than newborn to 18.

Parish is graying significantly and rapidly.

1672 families, 5400 parishioners today. A more accurate number now due to the census. We even called people who did not respond, and if they did not respond to that and had not been a contributing member in the last 6 years, we took them off the books.

Mass Attendance: October Counts: (when the entire country counts attendance). The national average is 20-22% of a church population go to church on any given Sunday, so we are above the national average. 17-18% attend every week nationally. We see 1300

people a Sunday. Church has 850 seats. We could easily accommodate 3000 people in a weekend.

Sacraments: 40 baptisms, 8 Professions of Faith (all adults), 70 1st communion, 82 confirmations, 8 weddings, 53 funerals.

School (K-8): Drop of 40 kids last year to this year. Fewer families are requesting tuition assistance. Those who do require more assistance. It is not likely that kids are not attending St. James because parents aren't able to afford. Is it possible that even with assistance, parents still could not afford? Northwest school district attendance is fairly steady (with respect to number of kids in Northwest schools); no real downward trend, or just a small decrease. ~92% of our eligible parishioner kids do attend St. James. Almost all of our advanced/senior teachers are certified catechists.

--Financial Report for 2014-2015

Parish Income was less than budgeted. Sunday collection income is becoming less and less. Will likely need to project a budget of about \$200,000 less for the next fiscal year (16-2017).

Donating: 537 families donate nothing.

31% of school families give \$100 or less per year. Average contribution from the small number of good contributors.....~\$770 a year.

School Finances: \$236,000 deficit. And this does not take into account any portion of reimbursement for those expenses shared with the parish (gym, undercroft...)

2013-2014: Deficit \$18,839; 2014-2015: Deficit: \$52,794.

We have a small savings which we are eroding at a rapid rate to pay the deficits in the past years. Educating students is a fixed cost, no matter the number of students. You have to begin to ask what things are absolutely important, and begin thinking about what may need to be cut. There is no pressure for the school to monitortheir budget.

There are 22, or more, "unregistered" fundraisers, and private donations to the school and not the church that would more than make up for the deficits. There needs to be a capital budget.

Capital Improvements (in the budget): ~\$91,259. This comes from Festival, Holiday Bonanza, and fish fry. We had a surplus of capital funds from last year. Fish Fry typically nets~ \$15K, Festival profit is variable: ~\$40-55,000 K. Holiday Bonanza: \$20-25K.

The feeling about the festival is mixed, but the morale is generally good.

Capital Campaign (Church and Windows): ~\$13,000 outstanding.

One Faith, One Hope, One Love: we receive, over the next 5 years, as/if people pay their pledges, a total of \$361,000 (only if we collect what is donated). We pay our debt of \$75,760, we earmark ~\$200,000 to cemetery improvements as PC mandated, and we are left with ~\$85,000 undesignated. This is only if people pay their pledged amount. We will receive money as payments come in.

IV. Council Topics for the next Months

Living the Eucharist (more than 150+ people participated) continues next Lent, Nick has adult Ed scheduled.

Could send out an email to show items covered in PC in the last years so we don't duplicate, or to follow up on items covered previously. For most meetings we invite either a parish organization to report, or a group of individuals with certain needs;

Possible topics: Reviewing the policy for fundraising by organizations in the parish.

Christian service had no reply from any organizations.

In the *Sunday Visitor*, an issue was raised: Do you have a security plan? What can we do as a group to move our parish forward? PC is a source of surfacing issues: what do we need to do better, what aren't we doing? Are there overlapping services in the parish.

Will send out groups that we have talked to...

This report by Father tonight could be a catalyst of discussion of issues that we could address. Make some plans about things we could impact, and quit whining about things we can't change. In churches people want to feel like they belong, and learning of the doctrines etc comes later. Catholic history is Churches, Schools, and Hospitals. Do we look at what we do well, and what can we do better.

Take a concerted look at the declining numbers, and what we could possibly do to change it. Take a look at our branding, why do people choose 1 school over another.

The visit to the Holy Land by school members; what is going on with that now that they are back. They went with funds from a grant. St. James is a pilot parish.

Post wedding follow up.....welcoming committee.... grief counseling (still ongoing).

Joe will send out email of topics, PC add their ideas, and Joe and Fr. will review, and set an agenda

V. Pastors Comments

Columbarium Installation at the Cemetery: Checking out estimates for the concrete work that needs to be done. The board wants to put in two of these.

The archdiocese has now become concerned with cemeteries. On Monday the Archdiocesan monitor of cemeteries is coming to St. James to look at the cemetery and to take a picture.

The Food for All: the hope is that this will become a yearly thing for us. Parishioners to contribute food as a spiritual bouquet for the Holy Father.

Fr. has approached the Scouts, under the direction of Nick. "Fill the Bus" November 7-8th. The Scouts have done a great job taking this on.

VI. Night Prayer

Next Meeting September 2, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Gandenberger