



Saint James the Greater Church

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**Pastoral Council Meeting
September 4, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Council Room**

Present: Tim Meyer, Fr. Nolker, Deacon Crooker, Evan Day, Jim Purtell, Joan Schulte, Eric Keller, Nancy Holt, Nancy Thomas, Ed Lanter, Jen Roth

- I. Opening Prayer All 7:00 p.m.
- II. Christ at the Center: Faith Formation All 7:05 – 7:20 p.m.

Reading: Luke 14:25-33

Reflection: What qualities do I think a disciple of Jesus ought to have today?

They should be prayerful, kind, loving, strong willed, and somewhat aggressive. Able to stand up for what is unjust. Empathy, someone who includes all. Repentant, patient, forgiving, obedient, curious. Wanting to know what is going on in the parish. St. James parish is very vibrant because organizations are well organized, and so many people are engaged in the various events. We have so many volunteers, both for the church and for the school. Parents and grandparents volunteer at the school. Being willing to take responsibility.

A follower of all of the commandments. It's important to be reflective. This is what we are charged with at my high school: To think about our day, and ask what I could have done differently / better? Was it what God wanted for me to do? We need to be spiritual. People today aren't as spiritual; so much distractions with social media. We need to be non judgemental, forgiving. Willing to be a servant to the church; willing to do what needs to be done. Willing to share time, talent, and treasure.

In Amazing Parish there was discussion of the pastor not needing to be involved in everything. If something needs to be done, just go ahead and do it. But the pastor should know what is going on in the parish.

- III. Annual Pastoral Report Summary Fr. Nolker 7:20-7:50 p.m.
Father will review pastoral and financial data from the Pastoral Report that will be published later in September.

1772 registered households, 4813 registered individuals. 1150 individuals participated in Sunday masses
1995 people over 51;
25 students in PSR--a high number
385 Liturgical Ministers

58 1st Communions. Reflects decline in number of children in parish and in school enrollment.

Quiet discipleship i.e. Giving Tree, St. Vincent DePaul. Importance of Virtus program.

Year Revenue: Total Revenue 4,097,580. Expenses: 3,944,201. School subsidy 1213 per student. Sunday giving was up, but was below budget.

Income from Festival/Holiday Bonanza/Fish Fry (These aren't a part of the formal budget; they are a separate line items): 89,939
Expenses: 23,700 + 84,00 for parking lot paving.

School has savings accounts: 674,453. These are designated funds for the school. The John Merritt Fund is a legally registered fund. We have no idea where the Koch Memorial Fund came from. The Blue Ribbon fund was started after our last Blue Ribbon. These last 2 are line items in the budget. There has been some consideration of dissolving the Koch and Blue Ribbon Funds.

One Hope, One Faith, One Love: Rebate to the parish (20% of what the parish has collected): 258,848. About 200,00 of this has gone into the cemetery Perpetual Care Fund.

Questions: Don't have the figures of exactly how much the school parents give in Sunday Giving. One of the issues is some parishioners make big contributions directly to the school. This funds trips to Holy Land, payments for continuing education. The school accounts for this, but it is not counted as parish giving. 20% of the school families do not give anything at all. Remember 10-11% of the families are not Catholic.

One idea is to have a set rate for tuition, and then provide a grant to families who participate in the parish. This is permissible, but comes with its challenges to manage. This is not a popular idea.

- IV. "Amazing Parish" Nancy Holt 7:50-8:15 p.m.
In May the parish team for "Amazing Parish" attended the conference in Cincinnati and has held the weekly meetings. Nancy will explain what this is all about.

Last May, Nancy Holt, Deacon Tim, and Fr. Tom went downtown for this three day event, very open minded. They spoke about how to make the parish office and the parish staff in general more welcoming. A lot of parishes brought their entire office staff. When we returned we felt we should expand our team, and asked Jeff Fulmer to join us. The idea is that this core team continues with mentoring from the Amazing Parish team, working on understanding the primary concepts, and after a period of time introduce and implement to the parish/school staff.

The primary concepts: Prayer, healthy teamwork, and healthy discipleship. How do you present yourselves on a daily basis? Prayer at start of all meetings/events, to develop a culture of prayer. How do you have trust, communication, and healthy disagreements? Pastor needs to be aware of all that is going on, but he doesn't have to be a part of everything that is going on. Parish leadership should not push back on the pastor. PC shouldn't be yes people. It is providing your opinion in a respectful way. Fostering healthy relationships. If organizations are no longer serving the parish,

its OK to dissolve said organization. If parishioners are disappointed, and feel they need to leave the parish, it is OK if they leave. Start thinking about the people and not the numbers in the parish.

Active discipleship:

Had a retreat for the staff. How do we present to each other? To people coming into the office?

What do we do well, what things do we need to do better? We did a personality assessment. How diverse are we? Do we have a diverse group? Are we meeting everyone's needs?

The whole point was directing us to look at ourselves from the outside.

We have been on a video call with one of the leaders of Amazing Parish (Patrick, from Colorado).

Patrick seems to be surprised that we have no big issues. Surprised that we took this to the staff.

Shocked that we were able to work through the issue of loss of one priest.

We have a 4.8 out of 5 score for Amazing Parish. Google Amazing Parish and like us!

What do we do to serve our parish better, what do we do to portray ourselves better to draw people in, with the goal of leading them into a relationship with the Lord?

Google "Amazing Parish." And rate. The video from our conference is not on the Amazing Parish Site yet (Amazingparish.org)..

The conference was so well run, that it really was amazing. Wonderful presentations, good discussions at each table. It had such a spirit. The main speaker was Pat Mancione. He was very energetic. His background is working with organizations, restructuring. Other speaker was more focused on spirituality. Really built everyone up. Very engaging.

Archbishop Schnurr has really pushed it. He wants all parishes of the Archdiocese to attend.

V. Pastor's Comments

Fr. Nolker

8:15-8:25 p.m.

Staff changes. Fr. Brian has left. Is doing well. Things are going well in his 2 broke parishes. Hired Fran Feldman, bookkeeper. Part time. Deacon Tim is now a full time Pastoral Associate.

2 new doors for the cafeteria have been installed. The parking lot has been resurfaced. Finally fixed the roof. New flooring in the school main hallways.

548 kids in the school. The enrollment seems to change daily.

There is a committee put together to look at air conditioning the school. Estimate is 4-5 million. Fr.Nolker not agreeable to a fund drive to raise money for the school; that large of an amount seems to be out of our reach.

The study done, and estimates regarding the air conditioning installation were very thorough and explanatory. If Pastoral Council feels that it would be beneficial to hear the presentation, so to be able to speak with parishioners, it can be arranged.

This would have to be a long term plan. Raise tuition and parents would pay. What kind of grants are available? Not many.

They looked at doing it in phases. The bulk of the cost, 3 million, is in the electrical and the duct work.

We are coming up to 2 anniversaries in the archdiocese:

175th of dedication of the cathedral

100th year anniversary of dedication of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati (Founded as a diocese in 1821).

Cathedral Christmas Tree--is asking for a new ornament from each parish and school. Needs to be no more than a foot in diameter. We need these by Christmas 2020.

VI. Night Prayer

All

8:25 p.m.

Nancy Holt, Chair, will present the brief Scripture reading during Night Prayer.

Next Meeting October 2, 2019

Respectfully submitted, Jenny Gandenberger