



Saint James the Greater Church

3565 Hubble Road

Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

Phone: 513.741.5300 Fax: 513.741.5302

info@stjameswhiteoak.com

Pastoral Council Agenda

November 7, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Council Room

In Attendance: Fr. Nolker, Fr. Rief, Deacon Crooker, Tim Meyer, Jenny Nienaber, Nancy Phillips, Evan Day, Ed Lanter, Nancy Thomas, Tom Schornak, Jim Purtell, Eric Keller

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-------------|
| I. | Opening Prayer | All | 7:00 p.m. |
| II. | Christ at the Center: Faith Formation
p.m. | All | 7:05 – 7:15 |

Reading: Gospel of St. Mark 12:38-44

Reflection: How many applications of this passage do you find for our lives, context today?

I was thinking of the pharisees. Today there are people in charge of large organizations, like United Way, in the news recently: The public gives money to be used for good, and leaders of the organizations are hypocritical and misuse the contributions.

I am a widow, and I didn't get my credit cards this month, and I was at risk of losing of my insurance and as I tried to work this out, and being told on the phone that I needed to give my bank information, which I would not do, I was upset. I hung up, crying, and I prayed to God. I had no one else to talk to. I reached out to God, like I always do. The next day, my mail arrived, and my credit card was in the mail.

I see this in our politicians. They are arrogant, self serving, corrupt; I don't have anything good to say about them..

The second one is hard; I can't think of anyone I know who would give from their want. I do. Years ago during a CMA appeal. The parishes that were characterized as poor, ended up with a higher per capita gift. The poor seem to have a sense of how much a small contribution can help someone else. That widow is still around in people today..

For me personally, with kids and their education, family needs. We are always trying to balance their needs and still give on Sunday. Give what we can.

I participated in canned food drive for St. X. We canvassed Indian Hill. Huge houses, gated neighborhoods. These people gave, but not as much as my classmates received in the poorer neighborhoods. Our group did not even rank in the top rankings of amount donated.

III. **Policy for Financial Activities of the Parish**

Ed Lanter

7:15-8:00 p.m.

At the last meeting, Ed offered to review/rewrite the policy in light of the discussion that evening. Tonight, he will present his suggestions for revising the existing policy.

We wanted to set up a floor or a ceiling amount for how much a group can take in. Who will check in with the parish organizations to make sure there is compliance. Amy has a meeting with head of all organizations once yearly, and informs of regulations and rules. AHG, AC, are grouped into parish-controlled accounts. For the major groups: someone from finance does an audit of these people once yearly. With respect to dual signatures: Have 2 people of an organization sign. Does not have to be that Fr. Nolker has to sign every check.

This document is drafted with expectation of non compliance, so some verbiage may be contradictory, in order to cover all the bases. PC discussion of tightening up the document, and clarifying the verbiage.

Be sure to include an effective date, i.e. when does this document go into effect..

Who's going to "coordinate with local businesses.." as noted in the policy? That is not the purpose of this policy. The organizations have pretty much worked within themselves to coordinate. Except PTO, which tends to just do what they want and not necessarily inform anyone. This statement is not a mandate; it's more of a cautionary statement.

In being a tax exempt organization, we have to be careful.

The one thing that the policy didn't state, is that you cannot use our private tax exempt number for a private purchase. This needs to be added to the written policy, with verbiage stating that doing so (using the tax ID number for a personal use) could be turned over to the authorities. This is the only way to stop this practice.

Ed to make the changes, then this will be sent to the various organizations. Should organization leaders have to sign off on this document? Maybe this is a good idea. Is the \$2500 bringing in a reasonable limit? Don't want to make the organizations feel encumbered by the reporting. This amount seems reasonable.

Thanks Ed!

IV. **Youth Ministry update**

Fr. Reif

8:00-8:15 p.m.

Met with the pastor (Fr. Jeff) of St Ignatius. He is not opposed to any youth interested, but he prefers to keep a dedicated St Ignatius group; not necessarily a merging.

St. Barts would be interested in joining with St. James.

There is no staff paid youth ministry at St. James. In looking back, the participation was historically low. When Nick was here, he had low attendance for scheduled

events. Generally low interest and low attendance. The majority of the youth get faith formation through their schools. Youth ministry is occurring at the high schools. Colerain HS even has an organization where youth can share their faith. The high schools have a youth minister.

Youth ministers at parishes have a high turnover rate.

My experience: hired a youth minister, and asked for targeting of the junior high age group, with the hope that if people got involved in junior high, it will carryover in high school. The junior high attendance was good: 40-60 kids. But once they hit high school, they don't continue.

The Cost: salary plus benefits, near \$50,000. Special educational training. Then the youth minister has to design a program. And remember there is youth minister turn over. Not every parish needs a youth ministry program. Not every parish can sustain a youth ministry program. It is up to PC to discuss and recommend.

Any program developed in and of themselves have a cost. Food, transportation.

Schools don't promote some of their outreach as "faith formation." Is it really faith formation? I strongly feel that we need to encourage the kids to continue on in their faith. Sometimes kids don't listen to their parents.

Who is responsible for faith formation of their kids? Parents. The church has done a marvelous job of promotion of faith formation by supporting catholic education.

There needs to be a parent ministry.

I think there is grey area; it is not black and white. In between the parents, the church, and society, we have to do something. What is not said in this report, why was there low attendance in St. James ministry, maybe kids wanted to go, but kids can't drive. The parents didn't take them....

What does the voice of youth say? : I do agree with what was said about the parents. I did not want to go to church, but my parents took me. And now I still go.

Mass attendance and youth ministry are 2 separate issues.

What do the high schools offer? There are opportunities for service, but it is not faith formation. There is nothing very formative, not in the way that a youth ministry program would. Service hours are available at all of the high schools.

I think there are kids who would have time to be in youth ministry, but it would be hard to get them to come back. They want to stay with where they have grown-high school, vs going back to where they were kids.

A personal connection, both to the parents and to the youth would be more successful. St. Bart's (Amy) was very welcoming in allowing St. James to participate. There is a decent number of participants at St. Barts. Eventually there would need to be a discussion of the finances if St. James joins their program.

Question for the parish: a youth minister, what would be their job? Is it just youth ministry, or other job duties? Is it feasible to share a youth minister with multiple parishes? Kids in high school are making friends with kids from other parishes. The archdiocese has programs that are currently running. Things like volleyball, or Holy Thursday mass and rosary happened because someone organized the event. That personal connection.

From a purely financial standpoint, it is infeasible to hire a youth minister. Can we check with other parishes and see if they have programs, and their participation.

Include the size of the parish. Jenny Nienaber will research this further (Nancy Thomas to help), and this will be discussed at next meeting.

V. **Pastor's Comments**

Fr. Nolker

8:15-8:25 p.m.

Non specific threat to the school community. Sent to a teacher. Immediately reported to the police, staff, community. The student involved no longer attends St. James. The school staff and police did a great job managing.

There are very preliminary considerations to add air conditioning to the school. This is not definite. Studies still being done. Looking at how to update the infrastructure, the increase in utility cost, etc. There are 4 different buildings that make up the school. Estimate: 1.5-2 million dollars, which is on the low side of the bids, and does NOT include building rewiring costs.

Annual October Sunday Count. Dropped by 44 people in the past year. This is a low drop as compared to other parishes. Average Sunday attendance in 2017 was 1085 per weekend; in 2018 it was 1041.

175th anniversary is almost over (ends with the feast of Christ the King November 25th). The directory will be ready by early December. People who got their picture taken will get a free copy. Thanks to Nancy for all the hard work. This is an enormous undertaking.

Booklet of 175 facts should be ready end of November-beginning of December. These facts have been appearing in the bulletin for the past year. Parishioners are paying for the printing. The 175th Anniversary Committee recommended that we ask for a small reasonable contribution if people desire to have a copy, and the monies raised from these sales will go to St. Vincent DePaul Society. The St. Vincent DePaul Society has a 5th Sunday collection December 30th, but their next 5th Sunday collection isn't until March 31st. The winter months are very hard on St Vincent De Paul.

Thanks to Beth Gideon, Karen Orth, and Connie Weaver for serving on the 175 year anniversary committee. When you see them, please thank them.

Thanks for mentioning the kids at mass, including them as part of the church community, and the future church.

Next Meeting February 6, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Gandenberger

VI. Night Prayer
p.m.

All

8:25

Evan Day will present the brief Scripture reading during Night Prayer.