

Blessed Sacrament Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes April 2, 2018

*We, Blessed Sacrament Parish, are a Christ-centered community; Committed to worship the Father;
Committed to respond to the Spirit's gifts; Committed to loving service to all God's people.*

Attendance

Facilitator: Jo Stone

Vince Stricker

Susan Churchill

Bob Sylvester

David Elliot

John Gianola

Joe Gresham

Molly Linehan

Rick Brennan

Tom McLane

Kay Margocee

Colleen O'Neill

John Finnell

Matthew Crabtree

Peg Nagem

John Hanna

Travis Green

Bob Lucas

Jeanne Haas

Natalie Zellers

Mark Haas

Joe Jenkins

Guest

7:00 pm Opening Prayer (Vince Stricker)

7:10 pm Kudos (All)

- All those who cleaned up after the dinner Easter Sunday
- Enjoyed the saints all around the church and all the Easter colors and faces in church.
- Flowers on the saint's pictures and all the people who did that work.
- Easter vigil was flawless, the music, especially the strings, added to the service. Acapella "Ave Maria" was moving.
- Brass at 11:00am Mass was wonderful
- John Hanna's homilies on Thursday and Friday were superb.
- Kudos to the safety committee who is moving along well

7:20 pm General Parishioner Concerns (All)

A tire was slashed on lot during eucharistic adoration. This was referred to safety committee.

7:30 pm Staff Concerns (Father John)

None.

Discussed new member discernment process. Seven members will be leaving council. Council members for ministry showcase to man the PPC booth were recruited. Council members were asked to recommend new members including those who have served previously.

7:50 pm Safety Awareness Update (Joe Jenkins)

Committee met two weeks ago Mar 20. Discussion about a defibrillator (AED). Dismas club was approached to request donations for one or two AEDs. There is a first aid kit in kitchenette next to the back entrance. It is being looked at for completeness. An Eppi pen and glucose shots are being considered to add to onsite kit First aid/ CPR training is being considered. Active shooter response training has been scheduled for 5/20 & 6/24 It is about a 3 hour a session. We will consider adding more sessions as necessary. All South Charleston police have had a tour of the church. We are considering doing the same with the fire department. Next meeting is April 17.

8:10 pm Goal Team Break Out Session (All)

Breakout sessions were skipped as there was very little activity by the teams

8:35 pm Goal Team Reports (All)

Susan asked about the survey. There was some confusion, and Father John and Bob Lucas will follow up.

There was no progress on other goals

Is it time to start a new goal cycle. This was discussed. We will develop a plan and discuss at the May meeting.

8:55 pm Closing Prayer (Vince Stricker)

9:00 pm Adjourn 8:26

Next PPC Meeting: Monday, May 7, 2018 7 – 9 pm

Prayer Leader: Joe Gresham

Attachment 1 Gathering new members for our pastoral Council

At our last meeting I agreed to draw up a timeline for recruiting new members to our council. Here is my proposal for your consideration:

Timeline for gathering new members for our pastoral council

April 7-8 Distribute Recommendation Info and Forms

April 21-22 Ministry Showcase is also this weekend

April 27-28 Receive Recommendations

**Invite Recommendees to Information and Discernment gathering
and to May 7 Council meeting**

Schedule Gathering for convenience of recommendees

This timeline should accomplish most of the process before everyone scatters for summer trips. Past experience is that no single date has worked for all the recommendees to come to the info/discernment gathering. Whenever I do schedule it (one or more dates as needed) I will also invite other parishioners even if they weren't recommended.

As part of presenting the recommendation process to the congregation April 7-8, I propose also to offer the attached document which has, on one side, some basic info from me and, on the other side, a slightly edited copy of what Susan Churchill had written about her experience of the council, which, I felt, was really good. If any current members wish to submit their own testimony or to suggest modifications of this one, please do so!

(Rev.) John H. Finnell, pastor
Blessed Sacrament Church
305 E Street
South Charleston, WV 25303
office: 304-744-5523
cell: 304-377-3560

Attachment 2

Discernment of New Members for Our Pastoral Council

What is our Pastoral Council?

Our Pastoral Council is the body of parishioners who are responsible to keep the whole parish community focused on the Mission, the Goals and the Objectives that we have discerned to be God's will for us. The current members are listed in every edition of our Sunday Bulletin Announcements. They are the primary body that advises the pastor and staff about the well-being of the parish community as it strives to carry out its Mission.

How is the Council structured?

There is no fixed number of seats on the Council.

We trust God to guide to council membership those whom God knows will best serve the needs of the parish.

The Council strives for consensus on questions that are posed rather than majority vote.

Consensus means a result that *all* members can live with.

Council members are invited to serve for 3 year terms.

The Council usually meets the first Monday of each month at 7pm from Sep through May.

Additional meetings may be called if needed.

The first meeting of the new season will be Tuesday Sep 4, 2018 at 7pm (since the first Monday is a holiday).

There is no limit to the number of terms that members can serve.

We depend on one or more volunteers to serve as the recorder of minutes for the Council.

Our faithful recorder for the last several years has been Bob Lucas.

The Council discerns one member who serves as facilitator of the meetings for a one-year term.

The facilitator consults with the members to draw up the agenda and then guides the discussion to keep the group on track during meetings.

How does one recommend new members for the Pastoral Council?

Every parishioner may recommend as many parishioners as they wish by hard copy or email, after prayer.

Every parishioner may also recommend him/herself.

Please fill out a separate recommendation form for each person to be recommended.

There is an ample supply of blank recommendation forms in the gathering space.

Ideally, the recommended person should be notified by the person making the recommendation.

The recommendation forms will be given to the persons recommended.

Those who are recommended will be invited to a gathering for information and prayerful discernment.

Please return recommendations to the pastor by Sunday April 22 by dropping it in the collection basket, or by mailing it to the parish office or by email to snowman25303@hotmail.com.

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEW MEMBER RECOMMENDATION FORM 2018

After prayerful reflection, I believe that

...
would be a valuable member of our Pastoral Council because s/he has these qualities:

.....
.
.....
.

I commit myself to pray that this person whom I have recommended
to prayerfully discern whether God may be calling him/her
to participate in the ministry of our Pastoral Council.

.....
person submitting this recommendation

***Reflections on being a member of our Pastoral Council from Susan Churchill
after she had completed her first three-year term as a member of our Parish Pastoral Council.***

A typical meeting. Each month we meet on the first Monday evening for about two hours and usually follow this outline:

- We open with a prayer planned and offered by one of the members.
- Then we take note of good things going on in our church community.
- This is followed by a discussion of general parish concerns and any specific concerns that we have heard about or been spoken to about or have noticed.
- Following this discussion is a report of staff concerns presented by Father John as well as any items that he feels should be brought before the council that he needs advice about or feels he should inform us about.
- The goal teams often meet and then present any updates. (You may recall the entire community participated in a goal survey several years ago.) The council works to ensure the goals the community settled on are being met.
- The meeting ends with a closing prayer led by the person who opened the meeting with prayer.

What is special? That's it? That's all? Yes. But it is HOW all of this is done that makes the difference for our church community and makes for an experience in which we hope *you* might consider taking an active part for the following reasons:

- Because we recognize that our parish and mission must serve God's purposes, our Pastoral Council meetings are book-ended with prayer and prayer-driven throughout. This sets a tone for how we gather, how we work, and how we depart.
- Concerns, large and small, are given a place at the table, discussed with a sense of grace, reverence and respect, and treated without judgment. The circumstances of a concern are presented. It may be quiet before people volunteer to address an issue or ask for clarifications.
- Usually there is a very broad range of options and opinions offered – *very broad!*
- We listen to one another. We challenge one another. We may reach a time in the discussion where we can agree on an action, if required.
- It may be that several meetings are needed before we find agreement or consensus (an outcome that we all can accept, even if it is not our first choice).
- We don't vote. We pray that we might know through the Holy Spirit what is a good action for our church.
- I can think of only one time in my three years that a person's name was mentioned in regard to a concern and that was because it was truly integral to the situation. Usually what may be brought up as a concern from one parishioner is probably an unspoken concern by others.

- The goals that we as individuals and families in the parish suggested several years ago are taken very seriously. There are five active goals at this time. The council members see that movement is happening, that talent within the parish is organized to bring the goals to fruition, that the goals are extended and adjusted as necessary through a series of objectives set for each goal by the council. Although a council member can be a part of doing the job, meeting the objective, it is not the general case. We are there to help gather the talent that is just right to do the job. There is not much work outside of meetings unless a goal committee wants to get together or needs to assess progress.

Our hope. Finally I would add that all of us are members of groups in which we address issues some of which are very sensitive, support some leadership, make some decisions, and so on. Maybe it's your family, your department at work, your classroom, your office staff, etc. I contend that a term on our Parish Pastoral Council would profoundly affect HOW you might go about being a member of your groups. I hope you will consider beginning the personal discernment process to see if God might be calling *you* to engage in this important, humbling and very worthwhile ministry.