

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – December 21, 2015

In attendance: Fr. Ron Sajdak, Fr. Mark Itua, Fr. Daniel Ogbeifun, Deacon Tom Friedman, Margaret Cusack, Kevin Dean, Rob Fohl, Michele Mogavero, Bob Poczik, Jeff Schoenborn, Jerry Sentz, Amy Vosson Vukelic, John Wilde, Fred Zazycki
Excused: Cathrine Friedman

Guests: Ken Rogers, Bill Ogilvie, Harold Erbacher, Carolyn Kraus, Bruce Zgoda

1. Meeting opened with Pope Francis' prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.
2. Last meeting minutes accepted. Corrections made to name spellings.
3. Fr. Ron Sajdak
Deacon's preached at weekend Masses prior to Christmas: Deacon Tom Friedman and Deacon Carmelo Gaudio. Father Ron asked the Council if they thought it would be a good idea for Deacon Carmelo to join the staff at Nativity, a positive response was expressed by several members
4. Lifelong Faith Formation – John gave an overview of the Mercies Abundant Grace program that will run on January 20, 27 and February 3 at 7:00pm. Mission runs February 28 – March 5. The ChristLife series will begin in April.
5. Diocesan Resources – Fred met with diocesan staff to identify resources that are available to the parish. He was impressed by the talent and resources available to parishes. Recommended a best practices approach when discussing something new at the parish and look to see what resources may be available at the diocesan level. Suggested possibly asking Dennis Mahaney to facilitate a session with PC and staff in assessing ways to share resources with diocese and other parishes. Fred spoke to Mike Sullivan regarding use of audio visual equipment in the church. Mike was not aware of any parishes in the diocese that are using such equipment. (Fr. Ron mentioned that St. Bernadette has this capability but it has not been used.)
6. Parish Survey – Jeff reported on the internal sessions that were held. Kevin reported on open meetings held with parishioners. Input from these sessions will be used in preparing the parish survey. A brief discussion was held on when and where the survey should take place (e.g. at Mass). The survey may also be made available on-line for those who may be away.
7. School Strategic Plan: Situational Audit – Ken Rogers gave an overview of his process, statistical background, initial findings, and planning questions (used to determine if process was successful – were the questions answered?). Discussions with parent focus groups, parish leadership, teachers, staff and professionals, diocesan staff, and parish open meetings have taken place. Demographics of the community were researched. Discussed issues to be measured. About 25% of students at Nativity are from outside the parish (from 17 parishes); 95% of students attending Catholic schools from the parish attend Nativity; a small percentage of students from the parish attend Catholic schools. Planning committee needs to determine what type of school Nativity wants to be. Current parents happy with values based education. What is important to parents of students that don't attend Nativity? Planning questions reviewed. Situational Audit report will be made available to parents and parishioners.
8. New Business – Rob agreed to bring snacks next month.
9. Bob closed with a reflection that he wrote after the December retreat designed by pastoral associates and given by Amy.

Next meeting: Monday, January 25, 2016. Future meetings: February 22, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15. All meetings will take place in the Msgr. Paa Center at 7:00 PM.

MJD 1/19/16