

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 29, 2014

ATTENDEES

Fr. Daly, Al Perpuse, Cathy Berger, Maricarol Cloak, Rocky Ragano, Jason Williams, Michael Thomas, Jim Caldwell, John Weigel, Jack Yatsko, Linda Pixton, and Mady Rivera

Missing: Kayla Gross, Joe Tiralla, Lynne Schulman, Joe Mills, Bobbie Woollen, Carolyn Smithburger, Daniel Scanlan and Eduardo Braham

Guest: Jack McFadden

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Al Perpuse at 7:10.

OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME

Fr. Daly welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 18, 2014 meeting were approved with one correction on a motion made by Jim Caldwell and seconded by Rocky Ragano.

PASTOR'S REPORT

1. Fr. Daly asked for prayers for: the deceased, Debra Ann Ury, Lorraine Hughes (mother of Thomas Hughes) and Deacon Tom Battaglia and, for the sick, Jean Doran, Walt and Ethel Sands, Linda Hederman-Ellenes, Jonathan Tucker, Fr. Huberto Bejarano, Marie LeBark, Arthur Thompson, Frances Chaney, Mary DeRight and those mentioned in the bulletin.
2. Parish Mission went well. Fr. Daly was very pleased with the Mission. The evenings were well attended.
3. Dinner with the Cardinal was very nice. The Cardinal tries to meet with the priests in every Deanery each year. Southern Maryland was the last meeting this year. He spoke about three things: the lawsuit with Health and Human Services, the upcoming Synod and the Scholarship Fund. The Cardinal was energized by the number of people who came into the church at Easter.
4. Small groups were successful. We will try to gather the small group leaders together or send out a survey seeking feedback on the small group experience. Some groups have formed book clubs so they can continue to meet.
5. Bishop Knestout will be here on Friday for Confirmation. This will be our smallest Confirmation class in many years.
6. On Saturday, May 10 about 60 children will make their First Communion.
7. We are one of the few churches that require their First Communion and Confirmation students to sign in at Sunday mass. Fr. Daly indicated that these are the "active duty" sacrament years. We need to try to keep these students and their parents attending Sunday mass. Deacon Jim Caldwell suggested we give the *Rebuilt* book to the parents of the Sunday CCD classes.
8. There has been no final report on the Cardinal's Appeal.
9. Special Projects Campaign: Campaign is ongoing.
10. Senior Housing Project: Nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Rebuilt Committee – Jim Caldwell gave his report. Please see attached documents. John Weigel asked about how many Spanish people are there in the county. We are the only parish in Calvert County with a Spanish mass. Lexington Park has a Spanish mass with about 100 attending. John Weigel asked if the other parishes advertise our Spanish Mass. The answer was no. Fr. Daly said that when there is a special occasion like a wedding or baptism we get about 100-150 people attending our Spanish mass. Mike Thomas spoke in reference to Attachment I. We need a Youth Minister. How does our mass attendance compare with ours in the county? Fr. Daly said our mass attendance is second to Jesus the Good Shepherd even though we are a smaller parish. We need to re-energize the volunteerism in the parish for example the ushers, hospitality and greeters. We need to make the Festival Room better for

families with young children. Possibly reinstate the Nursery and in the future feed the mass down to a TV in the Nursery. We also need to look at how we manage parking and greet people.

Al Perpuse asked what is going to be the overall strategy. What are we going to focus on? The Council decided to focus on three items: Hospitality (parking, greeters, etc.), Youth Ministry (including the Nursery) and Small Groups.

2. Website – Jason Williams and guest Jack McFadden presented the report on our website (see attached report). Jason showed the Council the websites of several other churches. He discussed a need for a theme. All are welcome was suggested as a theme. Deacon Jim Caldwell suggested we have a slide show of the church windows as a graphic on our website. Jack McFadden gave some statistics on our website: between Sept. 1 2003 and Dec. 1 2013 we had 49 visits per day; the busiest day (184 visits) Christmas Eve; 60% visited only once; 13% visited 10 or more times; most used Google; most visitors are in the Huntingtown/Prince Frederick area; the bounce rate (first page and leave) was 73%; 24% use smart phones and 11% use tablets. Why do we have a website...to support distribution of information, evangelization, face of the community, spiritual education and enrichment and our parish history. Al Perpuse suggested we discuss communication strategy at the next meeting. We should be thinking about theme...what draws you in and what makes it interesting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New business was tabled until the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

NEXT MEEETING WILL BE HELD May 20, 2014