
**OLIH Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Michael, Michelle Tremmel, Michelle Gavin, Rick Parker, Diana Fitzpatrick, David Drendel, Renee Wuest, Joe Carey, John Baumhover, Maria Schweers, Mark Schmitt

MEMBERS ABSENT:

1. Opening prayer by Michelle Gavin.
2. Minutes from March 25 meeting approved; Rick motioned, John seconded.

3. Council Business

• **Old Business**

- *Discuss revising pastoral council constitution/by-laws.*



OLIH PC
Constitution and By

- Suggestion to form a small sub-committee to review, suggest edits and bring back to the larger group – Diana, Rick, Michelle T, David.
 - *Parish as tithing community:* Fr. attended the last peace and justice committee meeting to inquire how parish tithing is promoted and communicated to others. Committee stated they communicate once a year; Fr. suggests that could be enhanced. Fr. also asked them to review the groups to which the parish is contributing and consider equity of donations.
- **New Business**
- *May Catholic Worker House – May 24:* Deacon Jeff will donate pulled pork. Mark will send out a sign-up sheet for volunteers.
 - *Welcome cards for newly baptized/confirmed –* Will do this at our May meeting: 5 baptized, 5 previously baptized but joined the Catholic church, and another 5 confirmed.

4. Feedback: “What’s Happening?”

- Dumpster fire on Sunday morning – Not sure what the cause was; will review security cameras for aid in determining the cause.
- Holy water sprinkling – new – noticed a deluge ☺
- Eucharistic ministers – How early should they arrive at mass so as not to lose their assigned ministry opportunity? May need to address with the captains so that there is a uniform approach and an agreed upon timeframe. Fr. suggests that if ministers are not here 10 minutes prior to mass time, then captains should start requesting subs. Also, perhaps when volunteers come forward, instead of writing their name down right away, the captain could make note of where to find that person and, if needed, let the volunteer know.
- Lots of really positive comments about Holy Week (e.g. choir/music was wonderful). Mass in the MPR went really well.
- Questions about why early mass on Easter Sunday is 8 instead of 8:30; believe we did this due to congestion getting in and out of the parking lot between masses.
- Reception for those newly entering the church was a great way to celebrate!
- What determines how the Passion is done? – Fr. thinks it is nice to change it up every once in a while; we’ve done the choral version two years.

- Holy Thursday feet washing stations – some were located in the far corners of the church, which wasn't very visible. Adding those stations offered 4 more than previously and offered privacy for those who wanted feet washing without being on display.
- Good Friday – veneration of the cross went much more quickly this year than last year by encouraging the lines to move faster by reducing distance in line.
- Fr. thought Holy Week overall went really well, just some minor things that he would modify. A lot of community involvement in all of the liturgies.
- A parishioner has suggested some landscaping projects along with a bid for doing the work. Father thinks it is something we could do but would need to be done over a couple of years due to cost.
- Stephen Ministers will serve at the Catholic Worker House this Friday.
- Council expressed interest in hosting a meal during our next Family Promise (FP) week – June or July. A coordinator from OLIH FP will let us know do's or don'ts for the meals. Diana volunteered as contact person.

5. Pastor's Report

- *Faith Formation:*
 - Last week of faith formation classes this week.
 - First Communion is April 27/28 – approximately 90 students.
 - Middle school Seder meal during Holy Week.
 - Seniors will meet with Fr. on April 24 – remind them that this is their home but also encourage them to get involved in church wherever they land.
 - Confirmation April 25. Father has proposed moving confirmation next year from spring to fall since spring is so busy. Students would complete their faith formation during their sophomore year and then receive the sacrament at the beginning of their junior year.
 - Wounded Body of Christ: Open forum regarding sexual abuse April 29, providing information about what happens when a priest is accused, statistics nationally and locally, sharing of small-groups, and questions-and-answer session. The diocesan chancellor will participate in the discussion.
- *Parish:*
 - Knights of Columbus fish fries were well attended
 - Wine and cheese for newcomers follow-up: 6 newcomer couples/families attended, appreciative of the parish tour as well as the opportunity to learn about parish life.
 - Question – Does the newcomer committee do any follow-ups with the new members after the reception? If not, council might send them cards.
 - Parish Reconciliation: Good attendance at the communal celebration as well as additional times that were offered.
 - Reception after the Easter Vigil was well received by the newly initiated and parishioners.
 - Blood Drive at OLIH April 23.
 - Photo directory to coincide with the 60th Anniversary. Photo session dates: May 21-25, June 18-22, July 16-20, August 13-17, 27-31, September 3-7.
 - Incidents at the parish:
 - Ankeny church was robbed, suspicious person also seen on the property.
 - Votive light “bank” was broken in to within the last two weeks.

- Safety committee will review what doors on the site really need to be unlocked all day. Would like to get set up so that all come in through one set of doors to control traffic.
- Bread for the World letter writing campaign – poor turnout this year. Not sure what more we could have done to promote it.
- *Annual Diocesan Appeal update*: Approximately 600 households contributing; far ahead of where we were last year at this time.
- *Priesthood Ordination*: Two seminarians will be ordained at St. Ambrose Cathedral June 21.
- *The relics of St. Pio (Padre Pio)*: Available for viewing at St. Ambrose on May 8 from 8:30-4:30pm followed by 5pm mass.
- *St Luke's update*: A new pastor, business manager, and school principal will be coming to St. Luke's. Fr. has worked with the new pastor, and they have already started talking about ways to work together.
- *RCIA Leadership*: With Sr. Susan moving to part-time, Patty Mayer will be taking over leading RCIA. Question about a rule that prohibits a spouse to be the person's sponsor: Not a rule but encouragement to have a non-spouse as sponsor so that person gets a broader connection to the parish community and feels comfortable asking any/all questions (unconstrained by spouse presence).

6. Reflection/Faith Sharing

- *Catholic Update*: "Easter Redemption: Celebrating the Power of the Resurrection"
 - Why does the creed say that "Jesus descended in to Hell?" Jesus went to meet those who died before him to bring them to resurrected life!
- Fr. handed out the May *Catholic Update* issue: "Mystagogy: Deepening the Christian Experience"

7. **Next Meeting**: May 20, 2019 (because of Memorial day May 27). Prayer Leader: Renee Wuest.

8. The meeting closed with prayer at 8:30.