

COMMON PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES: January 23, 2020 (OSM)

Members Present: Father John, Pat Suminski, Tom Ewing, Heidi Belongia, Beth Maniero, Vincent Thorn, Michael Reyes, Julie Trafton, Annette Luchessi, and Stephen Mazurchuk.

Visitors Present: Paul Hohl

Adoration

Common Pastoral Council - Meeting Called To Order

Seton Family of Catholic Schools: Paul Hohl, Director of School Engagement gave the CPC an overview of the Seton Family of Catholic Schools. Seton's mission is focused on "Giving Students a Running Start – Intellectually, Socially, Spiritually." In Milwaukee, the Seton community is made up of 10 urban schools with 2,500 students serving economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The Seton framework is built on best practices from the highest performing schools and focuses on effective governance, academics, building Catholic Identity, a network-wide operations model, and community involvement. In 2019/2020, Seton will be focused on restructuring (*e.g.*, Chief Schools Officer, multiple advisory groups) and increasing enrollment. Father John solicited feedback from the CPC on parish/school engagement, including ways to share effectively share information about Catholic East (*e.g.*, bulletins, parish websites, linking to the Catholic East newsletter), updating signs on all of the buildings, and raising awareness for parishioners who do not have students in their families. There was also a discussion about potential space concerns if enrollment at Catholic East increases in the future. Father John confirmed that space concerns are being discussed with Bishop Jeff and Principal Gonzalez and he will continue to provide updates to the CPC.

CPC Volunteer Event: The CPC is exploring opportunities for a volunteer event for council members in the Spring or Summer of 2020. We are considering a number of social justice ministries and seeking additional information from Laura Hancock.

Priest Reports: Father John provided the following updates:

- The Archdiocese is working on a strategic plan to guide the Church in Milwaukee for the next five years. In partnership with the Catholic Leadership Institute, we will be using a disciple-maker index to gauge certain aspects of life and faith. Chad Griesel is coordinating these efforts for our parishes and parishioners will be encouraged to participate.
- The Catholic Stewardship Appeal is coming in February. Our Parishes did well on our goal last year. There will be additional information at Mass and in the bulletins.
- Father John recognized the beautiful Christmas celebrations this year and thanked everyone who served and contributed.
- Lent will focus on better understanding the Jewish roots of our faith. We will be partnering with local Jewish organizations and there will be opportunities to participate in lectures, book studies and an almsgiving effort.

One More Thing / Upcoming Parish Events & Activities

- Fish Fries will be returning for Lent. They will not be available on Ash Wednesday or during Good Friday, but every other Friday in Lent.
- The Catholic East Gala will be held on Friday, April 24th at the Renaissance.

Individual Parish Council Meetings

OSM: The IPC for Old St. Mary continued to discuss the results of the Parish survey, including communication and actionable next steps. There was also continued discussion of future goals to be guided by survey results.

OLDP: The IPC for Our Lady of Divine Providence continued its discussion regarding Seton. The IPC was informed that a large group of people would be missing from the next town hall meeting. The IPC also discussed the need for involvement in these issues.

SSPP: The IPC for Saints Peter and Paul discussed an update on community building activities, reports from parish life groups, and information sharing with the parish. There was also discussion regarding the new PeopleTalk group that has met twice since the last CPC meeting. There was a nice turn out for the first session and the second session had about twenty-five participants. The participants seemed to be engaged and having soup and bread with a few other food items made it very welcoming for participants. Additional PeopleTalk sessions are scheduled for February 4th and 18th with a potential for continued meetings if participants are interested. There was also a report from the Parish Life Committee. Twenty-five bakers donated cookies for approximately 95 boxes of cookies. The boxes of cookies were sold for \$5 for a total of \$478 which will be contributed to the church budget for Parish Life. All involved had a fun time spreading joy. Finally, the Committee planned a bowling social event for February 9th.

THW: The IPC for Three Holy Women discussed building progress at St. Rita's Church, including schedule for installation of stained glass windows, stations, and pews. There was also discussion about the return of certain parish events (spaghetti dinners, Tavolata, *etc.*). Additionally, there was positive feedback about the Staff articles in the bulletins.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting: February 27, 2020 at OSM. (*No Adoration. Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.*)