

10.10.17 Parish Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Absent: Katie Hayes, Steve Weigand, Deacon John Schopp

The PAC met for its Fall Meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2017. Council members gathered at 6:30pm to network and share fellowship. The meeting began at 7pm with a prayer by Ed Giles. The following items were discussed:

1. Chairperson, Lisa Geneser, welcomed members to the meeting. Members introduced themselves and presented highlights from their pre-read.

Electronic pre-reads are one page summaries submitted from each advisory and consultative body rep that highlight the group's goals, actions, future plans and issues; what the group is spending its time, effort and energy on that should be communicated to the whole parish. At-Large reps and Apostles shared what they "heard on the street" about our parish; concerns, issues or praise about the SJC community. At our meeting council members were encouraged to comment or ask questions on the pre-reads.

The pre-reads and the highlights can be found at the end of the meeting minutes.

2. Vice Chairperson, Beth White, reviewed the PAC's work on evangelization from its last meeting in the spring. At our May, 2017 meeting Beth and Fr. Bob Lombardo helped the council understand evangelization. Simply put, evangelization is sharing our belief in Jesus with others; how God is working in our lives.

3. The council reviewed our parish mission statement and reflected on where it speaks to evangelization; our mission contains many value statements, simply stated, what is the purpose of our parish?

Council members felt that our mission to evangelize can be summed up in the phrase "to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News" and we do it by celebrating, welcoming, engaging, sharing, valuing, advocating, communicating, promoting and stewarding as a Christ centered community.

4. *Magis* in the Jesuit tradition means that we can always do more and better. This year the focus of the PAC will be to look at all the wonderful things our parish does through the lens of evangelization. How can we evangelize more or better in each of our ministries to invite, encourage and meet the needs of our changing world. We believe that through the Eucharist and through us, we are the body of Christ; we bring Christ to the world.

5. The PAC focused first on Outreach at our parish, understanding all that it encompasses and how we can 'do more or better.'

Outreach in our mission is expressed as: "Value relationships and expand outreach."

To determine our first-hand knowledge of outreach activities at SJC, the council made a laundry list of outreach activities which included: Share Christmas, grief support, Harvest Saturday, SJC Fest, garage sale, food pantry collection, school stadium food collection, sharing parish support, Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation community garden, and St. Gall school supplies. In fact the Outreach Advisory committee shared many more ways our parish is reaching out to others: refugee zoo trip, Kolbe House retreats, letters to prisoners, furniture and kitchen cabinet donations, remodeling 4 apartments at PBMR, mattresses for refugees, assistance with Helping Hand events and fundraisers, learning about and hiring 2 interns from Helping Hand at the parish school, and more.

6. In small groups, the council discussed possible changes; ways to focus our outreach experiences back to our faith; helping people to recognize that we are building the kingdom of heaven on earth through our service; and how to engage more parishioners with meaningful service opportunities. The following points were made:
 - a. Instead of service events change the wording to experiences so that stories can then be told to others (evangelizing)
 - b. Help volunteers or donors understand the impact of their actions on the recipients, e.g. understand that you are not serving food but you are serving people; you are bring Christ to another.
 - c. There is a need to increase awareness of service opportunities. Even though it is listed in the bulletin and on the website, people are not serving. How can this be done in a new, creative way? How can we share the service stories in a new creative way across the whole parish? Perhaps having Bill Bright share some “stories” from the pulpit would be a powerful way to communicate.
 - d. Are there enough service opportunities for our parishioners?
 - e. People have less time to serve so they may need to serve in smaller increments; if their service experience gets strategically connected to the Gospel they will serve more.
 - f. Share Christmas is seen as more transactional than personal giving. The Share experience could be expanded to include a handmade card for the family, praying for the family, etc. Each service experience needs to be shaped so that a story can be told.
7. For the Winter meeting, the council members were asked to have meaningful conversations with fellow parishioners about Outreach-how can we engage others more fully in outreach, new outreach ideas, and new ways to communicate the opportunities and follow up stories of service.
8. All council members are asked to share these minutes with their boards and councils and with friends and fellow parishioners. Get the word out about what we discussed at our meeting.

Pre Reads

Welcome Center Fall 2017 Pre-Read Elizabeth Russell-Jones

1. We have registered 124 new families this year. This number is lower than in previous years. All families are sent a welcome letter from Father David; then contacted by me via a phone call (mostly to cell phones) and an email.
2. Age Breakdown
 - a. 25-40 year olds – 67 families (“Millennials” starting their families, renewing their own faith, educating children in our YC and school)
 - b. 41-54 year olds – 31 families (who have older children and continue to grow in their faith)
 - c. 55+ - 24 families (who have grown children, empty nesters, retired, snowbirds and established in their faith)

**Note: “Millennials” as defined by Newsweek Magazine) were born 1977-1992 and fall into our 25-40 year old range.*

3. Geography (where are our new members living)
 - a. SJC boundaries (Ogden/Willow Springs/Canal/County Line Road) – 74 families
 - b. St. Cletus – 14 families
 - c. St. Isaacs – 12 families
 - d. St. Francis – 7 families
 - e. Other – 17
(Including: Chicago, Downers Grove, Westchester, Clarendon Hills, Lisle, Willowbrook, Darien, Hickory Hills, Lemont, Justice)
4. I hosted monthly “Meet and Greet” open houses for new members in the Parish Center. This has been a great way for new families to meet other new families and to share information about SJC. I met with 20 new families. I had an average of 2-3 families at each meeting. This is a significant decline in meeting new members.
5. I met with several “drop-ins” which is always great. They were mostly 55+. Millennials (our largest group) are not dropping in since both spouses are working full time.
6. I am always brainstorming trying to reach our new members. Some of those ideas include: dropping off bags at houses with the new member’s approval, being in the narthex quarterly with table and welcome bag, hosting Meet and Greet donuts in Community Room of church.
7. Many of our 55+ new members have relocated to be near their children to help care for their grandchildren during the school day/weekends. Many were in the Amazing Women’s Group but they were too busy with grandkid’s dental appointments or weekend soccer games to do additional events. I would like to see how we can minister to this group by “meeting them where they are” (for many it would be morning Mass). An example could be to host coffee in the community room after Saturday morning Mass or after a weekly Mass.
8. I continue to share new members’ names with staff and committees to get new members involved (Eucharist Ministers, Ministers of Care, Gardening Angels, Choir).
9. Many new members have church shopped and are choosing St. John of the Cross for many reasons. Some of those reasons that they have shared with me include: because of the warm feeling they get from members in the pews, the school and YC, the bulletin, the friendliness of the front office of the parish center.

**Finance Council Fall 2017 Pre-Read Diana Januska, Finance Council Chair
Annual Report Financials**

Overall, the Parish is in good financial shape. During the past fiscal year, we maintained and improved the parish campus buildings and grounds, continued to support the parish school and YC programs, and made significant progress towards setting aside funds to pay our To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) obligation to the Archdiocese. Support of the Sunday Offertory Collection, Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), and the Family Fest remains strong. This continued stewardship coupled with strong financial expense management resulted in the parish reporting an operating surplus of \$92,000. To date, we have accumulated \$876,932 toward retiring our \$1.2 million TTWCI obligation. Annual TTWCI payments to the Archdiocese will begin in 2018.

During the last fiscal year, several improvements were made to the parish campus infrastructure. These improvements included improving the overall safety and security of the school building, the lighting in the parish parking lot, and handicap access to the church building

We are projecting a break-even budget for the next fiscal year.

The annual financial report will be presented to the parish the first weekend in November. The bulletin distributed at the Masses that weekend will contain a detailed summary of the parish's financial condition. In addition, Finance Council members will be available to respond to questions after all Masses that weekend.

Adult Faith and Spirituality Fall 2017 Pre-Read Steve Weigand

Fall 2017

- Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
 - Collaboration with St. Francis Xavier
 - 13 Adults
 - Tues. Evenings (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.)
 - September – April

- 7 Principles for Making Marriage Work Retreat
 - 9:00 – Noon
 - 5 Couples
 - Sat. Sept 30, Sat. Oct. 14

- Children's Liturgy of the Word
 - 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
 - New Resource
 - 12 new catechists

- Family Style Preschool
 - Parent/Child Faith Formation
 - Oct. 21, Dec. 9, Feb 17, April 21
 - 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Winter 2018

- Adult Book Study-
 - The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World
 - Jan 10-Feb 14
 - Wed. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

- 'Seasons of Hope' Grief Support
 - Jan 22 – Feb 26, 2018
 - Mon. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

- 'Divorce and Beyond' Support for separated and divorced
 - Jan 11 – March 1
 - Thu. 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

- 7 Principles for Making Marriage Work Retreat
 - 9:00 – Noon
 - Jan. 13, 20, Feb. 3

Outreach Advisory Committee Fall 2017 Pre-Read Rose Horvath

NEW ITEMS:

Hurricane Relief: In lieu of collecting of items for victims of recent hurricanes

1. SJC will hold a parish wide collection of funds to be divided between Christ the Good Shepherd Parish in Houston, TX and the diocese of Dade County in FL. Puerto Rico to be determined.
2. YC 7th grade were asked to bring in WalMart and/or Target gift cards
3. SJC school children will hold a fund raiser

New Sharing Parishes being considered:

1. St. Columbanus, 7120 S. Calumet, Chicago. Fr. Matthew O'Donnell, pastor
2. St. Thomas of Canterbury, 4827 N. Kenmore, Chicago, Fr. Paul Schneider
3. A parish in Houston, TX

Outreach Partnership: SJC will partner with St. Cletus and St. Francis Xavier to prepare and serve lunch at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary.

Share Christmas: Diane and Bruce Harken will be taking over leadership with hopes of co-chairing with another couple.....suggestions as to who that might be?

SJC Student Council will no longer hold a candy collection at Halloween time. Teacher, Lisa McManus may focus on school supply collection.

Care Net of Downers Grove asked SJC to collect baby bottles filled with coins.

St. Thomas of Canterbury will be the recipient of September's Food Pantry. Pastor, Fr. Paul Schneider has offered to sub at a Saturday evening mass at SJC.

Sharing Parish Reports:

St. Gall – day of giving out school supplies last month – 9 volunteers from SJC worked 8AM to 2PM until supplies ran out. St. Gall teens will again help out with SJC Harvest Saturday drive.

Refugee Resettlement – 26 kids were treated to a day at Lincoln Park Zoo. Food for lunch was donated by Bill Bright's cigar buddies. All had a great time!

PBMR, Food Pantry, and Kolbe House reports were submitted as pre-reads.

HELPING HAND – opening 13 'cilahomes' for residents, says Bill Dwyer.

BEDS – 4 million dollar building going up for chronic homeless. St. Hugh parish will still have overnights.

Poor Box – to St. Barbara's.

PBMR Fundraiser – held Oct 1st, liturgy, pig roast & tour of renovated apartment building for transitional housing. Recent TV & print media coverage of PBMR due in part to SJC grad Lauren Petty of NBC news.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 19th, 7PM

School Advisory Board Fall 2017 Pre-Read Mike Francis

The school year is off to another great start! Our theme for this year is, "We are One Body".

Enrollment is currently 642 students, consistent with the last three years.

This year we welcome our new staff which includes Mrs. Diane Sellinger, 7th grade Homeroom and 7th/8th grade Science teacher; Mr. Fred Reynolds, Technology Coach; Mrs. Maggie Serafini, 2nd grade teacher; Mr. Barthomeow Piet, 7th/8th grade Social Studies; and Miss Megan Swiecicki, 7th grade Language Arts teacher.

We participated in five different parent nights in the last four weeks. Parents had the opportunity to meet their children's teachers regarding curriculum, as always, Meet the Teacher Night occurred before the first day of school. All evenings were well attended.

For the first time, our Junior High students attended mass with area Catholic Schools' Junior High students. The liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Manz at St. Louise DeMarillac, followed by an hour retreat. Our students were well behaved, positive and heard the message of "We are one Body" in our faith.

We are thrilled to be participating in the Archdiocese of Chicago and Catholic Charities new initiative, the Soup-er Stadium Challenge, this fall, the Challenge asks every Catholic school student, teacher and staff member to donate (at least) one non-perishable food item to fill the shelves of Catholic Charities' food pantries. The goal is to collect enough food to fill every seat in Soldier Field...twice! This collection will provide more than 100,000 meals to Chicagoans in need.

We successfully planned a SJC Alumni send off to college for our 2013 graduates. It was great seeing the growth with these young people since leaving our care. We wish them well!

Once again, tuition increase has been kept to a minimum this year thanks to the generous support of the parish, the success of the fundraising events, and tremendous response to the Time, Talent and Treasure program that continues for this next year. Families will be reporting their SJC community participation online this year to qualify for the discounted tuition rate.

Overall St. John of the Cross is off to another fantastic year. We encourage anyone interested to check us out. Tours have already started for the 2018-2019 school year!

Youth Ministry Fall 2017 Pre-Read Brandt Siegfried and Topher Fryzel

The Youth Ministry would like to inform you about events we have coming up, and our work towards fulfilling Cardinal Cupich's Renew My Church Initiative.

Event Recaps:

- Summer work tours were a success, sending SJC teens to two locations - Habitat for Humanity in Kentucky and Our Lady of Charity in Cicero

Upcoming Events:

- GoApe! bonding activity for Crossroads members, opportunity to invite new teens to our Ministry-Oct. 21
- Day of the Spirit retreat for 8th graders preparing for Confirmation-Oct. 28
- Preparations underway for fall Kairos 27 retreat with St. Francis and St. Cletus-Nov. 2
- Annual Harvest Saturday food drive-Nov. 11
- Fretus-Identity retreat for frosh/soph retreat with St. Francis and St. Cletus-Jan. 12-14
- Our Ministry is in the preliminary stages of organizing a trip to a youth rally and Mass hosted by Cardinal Cupich and the Chicago March for Life-Jan. 14

News:

- Crossroads welcomes new teen and adult service team leaders
- Katie Nicholson is taking on more responsibilities after over a year with SJC, allowing our Ministry to do more
- We would like to welcome the new St. Francis Youth Minister Olivia Hoffman to our local community
- We have 3 new adult leaders on our Freshman Experience team, and we always have room for more
- Crossroads is in the trial phase of a new format, beginning with the freshman class; instead of splitting into home groups, they will remain together for the entire year and meet at the Parish Center

Relation to Renew My Church:

- We are evangelizing by continuing our work with SJC's youth, but we are expanding opportunities for our teens to invite other teens through the GoApe! experience
- We are continuing to work with our neighbors at St. Francis and St. Cletus; the Kairos retreat has combined them for most of its history, but this is the first year the frosh/soph retreat will be conducted together

Women's Club Fall 2017 Pre-Read Jennifer Miller

October 12, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Evening of Reflection

You Were Made Beautiful and Whole with everything you need to live as a Living Sanctuary with peace, calm, and fulfillment. An evening of awareness, presence, and reflection of the Divine gift of our pure and complete spiritual body. A light yoga practice will be incorporated and attainable for all ages and abilities. Yoga is a tool available to calm the mind, nurture the body, and uplift the Divine Spirit living within you.

November 16, 2017

Fashion Show

Fashion Show is a different format this year. We won't have tables with a sit down dinner. We will have heavy appetizers and dessert. We'll also have an open bar pre-show. The fashion show will include parish children, and women of our parish (over 50). We hope these changes will make the night a more social event for all.

Youth Catechesis Program YC Report ~ September 2017 (Pre-read Maria Young)

Program Update

- YC Began September 17th and 18th (Sunday AM and Monday PM classes)
- 549 Registered Families (*last year 548*) – 967 Children registered (*last year 941*)
- 10 families transferred to SJC from other programs
- Non-Registered families as of 9-6-16: 22 families (*last year 27*)
- 160 volunteers committed as Catechists, Aides or Office

YC Hosts these Events:

- Open House on first day of classes - was well attended by parents
- “Souper Bowl Sunday” food Collection on February 4-5th
- Father Daughter Dance – Sunday February 11th - open to all parish families
- Jesse Manibusan Concert – Sun., Feb. 25th at 3pm and Mon., 26th at 6:30pm - open to all parish families. Jesse is a composer, singer/songwriter, storyteller, humorist and evangelizer. This is a popular event for students and families.
- YC Volunteer appreciation Luncheon – April 15th

7th and 8th Grades, Laurie Smillie Coordinator

7th grade:

- 10 small groups with 119 students
- 9/24 Kickoff with John Lamperis, all small groups and catechists will be present.

8th grade:

- 13 small groups with 153 youth
- Day of the Spirit Retreat will be held 10/28.
- Confirmation is Saturday, January 27th

Grades 3-6, Cathy Mahoney, Coordinator

It is important to note that besides parents of students, we have 30 Volunteers in Grades 3-6 which are: parishioners, teens, or parents teaching a grade others than their child's grade.

Grades K-2, Maureen Hill, Coordinator

There are currently 133 kids signed up in Grades K-2. Many returning Catechists and Aides from last year. 1st Holy Communion Masses – May 5th and May 12th

Adaptive Catechesis, Cathy Mahoney, Coordinator

This is a multi-aged group class for special needs students. All of our students are returning this year for the year, which will focus on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, to help prepare 3 of our children for Confirmation at their own ceremony on December 12th.

Welcome
Elizabeth Russell-Jones

1. Millennials continue to be our largest group of new members.
2. Our Meet and Greets are down in attendance. Brainstorming how to reach our new members.
3. New members are very happy to have joined such a vibrant faith community.

Finance Council

Diana Januska

1. The parish finances are in good shape due to continued support of the weekly offertory, Annual Catholic Appeal, and the Family Fest.
2. The parish set aside approximately 73% of the funds needed to address the TTWCI debt.
3. Maintenance and improvements to the parish campus infrastructure (i.e. school building security, tuck pointing, and new lighting, chillers, and boiler) were planned and paid for with parish savings.

Pastoral Ministry
Steve Weigand & Pat DeMars

1. Collaborative RCIA with SFX
2. Family Style Preschool Program
3. New Look to CLOW

Outreach Advisory

Rose Horvath-Bill Bright

1. Evolving changes in global and community needs necessitates changes in the focus of our Outreach efforts

Hurricane relief of 2017

New sharing parishes are under consideration

Beginning to partner with St. Francis and St. Cletus in several areas of outreach

2. Ongoing Outreach continues with our “regulars”

St Gall, Kolbe House, PBMR, Refugee Resettlement,

Food Pantry distribution, Helping Hand, BEDS

3. SJC Outreach honors the Gospel mandate to “Love thy neighbor”

Carefully considering each request whether from an individual or an organization

Open to people and places in need both far and near

Welcomes participation in Outreach undertakings from all SJC men, women and children

School Advisory

Mike Francis-Kathleen Gorman

1. Enrollment has remained steady currently 642 students.
2. Theme this year is: “We are One Body.”
3. Participating the Soup-er Stadium Challenge

Asks every Catholic school student, teacher and staff member to donate (at least) one non-perishable food item to fill the shelves of Catholic Charities' food pantries.

The goal is to collect enough food to fill every seat in Soldier Field...twice!

YC Council

Maria Young-Janet Caschetta

1. YC numbers as of 9/5/17: Families: 549 • Students: 962 •
Volunteers: 160
2. Classes began 9/17 and 9/18 with well attended parent Open
Houses
3. Jesse Manibusan Concert in the church will be Sun., Feb. 25th and
Mon., Feb. 26th
All Parish families are welcome to this popular spirit-filled event.

Crossroads Advisory

Brandt Siegfried - Topher Fryzel

Katie Hayes-Katie Nicholson

1. Continuing the Renew My Church initiative by working with our neighboring parish Youth Ministries
2. Welcomed 3 new adults to the freshman experience team as we revise the format of Crossroads
3. GoApe! bonding activity is one of our first activities based purely on the concept of building relationships and allowing an opportunity to invite other teens to our ministry

Worship
Fr. Bill & Jessica

Evangelization Handout

Women's Club
Jennifer Miller

Upcoming Events to build community among women of the parish

October 12, 2017 at 7 p.m.
Evening of Reflection

November 16, 2017
Fashion Show

“Word on the Street”

At-Large Reps & Apostles

1. Declining church attendance a concern for active church attendees- lack of enthusiasm and lack of community at Mass- strong desire for greater sense of community and participation.
2. Church goers have opinions about Sunday Mass –both positive and negative; consistent concern about the number of visiting priests
3. Great deal of love, compassion, and respect for Fr. David; concern for both of our priests; grateful for visitor priests;
4. How can we be helpful to the Schopp family?
5. Make the Sacrament of Reconciliation more accessible

inconvenient time, neighbor parishes offer same time;

suggest offering reconciliation in the evening or after a 5pm Mass once a month-coordinate with neighbor parishes

identity statement

We, of St. John of the Cross Catholic Parish, are disciples of Jesus who desire to further His mission. A caring community that cherishes our parish heritage, we generously share our varied gifts and resources with others. We live our Catholic Faith, celebrate the Sacraments, and pursue life-long religious education and formation opportunities that support us in being witnesses and proclaimers of the Gospel.

vision

St. John of the Cross Parish is a vibrant, caring, Catholic faith community, responding to the dynamic movement of the Holy Spirit and living the Gospel call to right relationship with God, each other, and all creation.

our mission

Thus, guided by the words of St. John of the Cross, “In the evening of life we will be examined in love,” our mission is to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News. Therefore, we will:

Celebrate Eucharistic liturgies that enliven our spirits

Be a welcoming community, who calls forth the gifts of each person

Engage in life-long formation that calls us to convert our hearts

Share the teachings of our Catholic faith

Value relationships and expand outreach

Advocate for the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church

To support this mission, we will communicate effectively, promote lay leadership and collaborative models of governance, and faithfully steward our time, talent and treasure.