

St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Triangle, VA
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
May 4 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE - 9:30AM in the Brother Juniper Room.

- a. Members present were Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, Pastor, Fr. Terry Danner, Dr. Tricia Barber (Principal), Phil Bongiorno, John Hales, Barbara Hammond, Michelle Nicolai, Angelica Salguero, Dan Sullivan, and Ulli Vaerst
- b. Members Absent were Jean Allen, Maggie Eves, Marv Floom (Finance Council), Marianne Hayes DRE, Clarence Neason, Pequitte Schwerin

II. Opening Prayer - Fr. John O'Connor, OFM

IV. Name Badges – Badges were distributed to members present.

V. Departure of Barbara Hammond

Barbara Hammond is moving to the Virginia Tidewater area. Her husband was reassigned by the USCG. She will be missed by all. Fr. John is reviewing candidates to finish out her term as outlined in the Pastoral Council Constitution.

VI. Feedback from The Sultan and the Saint viewing and panel discussions.

- a) The Pastoral Council was very pleased with the planning, structure, attendance and participation the event. Comments were universally positive.
- b) The structure of having a Muslim at each table was a format that was interesting and informative for all.
- c) There was discussion of building on this with possible next steps such as a Mosque visit or holding an interfaith dialogue event at the Dar AL Noor Mosque.
- d) Thanks to Fr. Iggy and Pequitte Schwerin for their efforts in planning the event.

VII. PASTOR'S REPORT

- e) Bishop's Lenten Appeal Collection stands at 105% of goal. St. Francis of Assisi Parish was one of the first 5 parishes in the Diocese to reach goal. Fr. John noting presenting at the beginning before mass seemed to help this along.
- f) Weekly collections were down slightly, although some parishioners are donating to the parish via annual IRA Distributions, which makes it harder to tell week by week.

There will be an annual accounting of the collection shortly. Attendance figures are growing, and Fr. John will plan a pulpit announcement about joining the parish.

- g) The Holy Name Province ministry evaluations continue. Brother Henry continues to participate in them. There will be no formal report coming soon, as this is driven by the Provincial assignment process which will take place next year. Informal feedback is positive regarding St. Francis of Assisi in Triangle.
- h) The organizational consultant completed his report, objectives of the study were achieved, costs came in well below projections at \$1,500. The report looked at the various staff positions and the Parish ministries. The report made recommendations as to the impact of the activities and amount of staff support related to them. Fr. John and a subgroup of the Pastoral Council led by the Chair reviewed the recommendations and suggested actions. As the report affects the staff of the Parish, they will be briefed first. The Pastoral Council will be briefed on the recommendations after that. A Pastoral Council member donated the funds to pay for the report.
- i) Dr. Barber continues to pursue enrollment and cost management. One student transferred out since our last meeting.
- j) New parishioner welcomes have been thinly attended. The events will now be scheduled bi monthly.
- k) Fr. John discussed his meeting with Bishop Burbidge. The Bishop was well pleased with St. Francis of Assisi Parish. There were discussions about the potential for conducting outdoor weddings. The Bishop will be considering this.

VIII. Eagle Scout Bird Feeder Project Presentation

Eagle Scout candidate Connor Orille gave a presentation on building and placing 4-6 bird feeders on the Parish grounds. He had a demonstration bird feeder which would seem to discourage squirrels if placed away from trees or other objects they could jump from. He estimated the cost of his project at around \$500.00. Several members asked questions about how the bird seeders would be replenished and how the bird seed for them would be bought. After deliberation the Pastoral Council will ask for a 12-18 month maintenance and sustainment plan to be added to the project plan. The project will be considered based on the revised plan. There were also concerns from some members about another Eagle Scout project that was never started. Fr. John will address the concerns.

VIII. Proposed Further Revisions to Constitution

A brief update on this was provided by Terry Danner. While membership of the Pastoral Council will not change, only the 12 members elected from the Parish will be voting members. The paragraph of the constitution defining how, why, and when the council may go into Closed Session will be further defined. Terry said a proposed draft will be forwarded to members prior to our next meeting.

IX. Strategic Plan: Next Steps

The information from the Consultant report, and the materials researched for it, will be helpful to the Strategic planning effort. The information from the Provincial evaluation would also be helpful, but it will not be officially available for some time.

X. New Business

There was a discussion of security at the Parish and various options were discussed such as having a police presence or a backpack inspection. Each of these options have various pros and cons. The Prince William Police make a presentation available on "Active Shooter" which offers good practical suggestions.

XI. Next Meeting: June meeting will be held at 9:30 AM, Saturday, June 15th in the Br. Juniper Room.

XII. Closing Prayer: Dan Sullivan led the group in a closing prayer.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Sullivan

Voted as approved on June 15th 2019 by the Pastoral Council