

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Triangle, VA**  
**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16 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, Jean Allen, Dr. Tricia Barber (Principal), Phil Bongiorno, Maggie Eves, Marv Floom (Finance), John Hales, Marianne Hayes (RE Director), Clarence Neason, Michelle Nicolai, Angelica Salguero, Pequitte Schwerin, Dan Sullivan, and Ulli Vaerst
- b. Member Absent was Barbara Hammond

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

**III. 02/16/19 Meeting minutes were approved**

**IV. PASTOR'S REPORT**

**a. Diocesan meeting with Bishop Burbidge**

Fr John reported on the recent meeting between the Bishop and priests in the diocese. There was a presentation made followed by a lengthy discussion on the Dallas Charter for the protection of Children, and the current situation in the Church.

The discussion surfaced the following recommendations, 1 that confessionals no longer be enclosed, 2 That priests should not meet with a parishioner unless there are additional staff present in the office area of the parish, 3 that priests never meet with a child without a parent or staff member present

**b. General**

1. The Bishop's Lenten Collection stands at 68% of goal.
2. Parish finances continue on an upward trend
3. A second collection will be held the weekend of 16-17 March to defray the \$6,000 cost for the permanent installation of the additional audio speakers for the Church.
4. The organizational consultant will complete an initial report by 22 March.
5. The Holy Name Province Ministry Evaluation Criteria is furnished as an attachment. Fr. John noted he will meet with Bishop Burbidge before the HNP meeting with the Bishop. There was discussion of membership on the Diocesan Peace and Justice Commission.

6. The HNP evaluation team will visit the weekend of April 13-14. Attendance at a Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> working lunch will be by individual invitation only.
7. By Fall 2019 HNP will prioritize all of their ministries. Over the next number of years, the number of HNP ministries is likely to be reduced by 50%. There is a second round of evaluations and prioritizations planned when all 5 of the US Order of Friars Minor merge in 2023.
8. School enrollment is up slightly, and Dr. Barber and the school continue press forward for increased enrollment.
9. The new parishioner welcome is well received among those attending, however the numbers are low. There was discussion about reaching back to new parishioners to continue contact and promote engagement.
10. The Preliminary Holy Name Province Evaluation Report is attached. There are several significant errors relating to area demographics in the report.

#### **V. Strategic Plan**

Terry Danner noted that our constitution (Article VIII, Section 1) requires the Pastoral Council to establish a Visioning Committee. The task of the Visioning Committee is to facilitate development and upkeep of the Parish Strategic Plan. An example of the product of a previous Visioning Committee's work can be found in the March 2010 "Assessment of the Adherence of Ministries to the Saint Francis of Assisi Parish's Mission and Vision".

#### **VI. Proposed Revisions to Constitution**

The updates are provided as an attachment. Please review and be prepared to discuss the update at the next meeting. A vote on accepting the proposed change will be held at the following meeting.

#### **VII. Proposed Changes to Pastoral Council Section of Webpage**

The webpage is now online at <http://www.stfrncis.org/pastoral-council/>

#### **VII. Pastoral Council Name tags**

Dan Sullivan circulated the list of names for approval, and will order the badges

#### **VIII. New Business:**

1. It was suggested the Parish Council sponsor a Volunteer Appreciation event.  
Approved – details to follow.
2. Terry mentioned that Fr. Ignatius Harding would like to ascertain if there is interest in forming a group to share information about the purpose and programs of each ministry under the Franciscan Action and Advocacy umbrella. The goal would be to build understanding and provide mutual support for these ministries. Jean Allen volunteered to be the Pastoral Council representative.
3. As follow-up to our February meeting, Pequitte reported a screening of the movie 'The Sultan and the Saint', followed by a discussion, will be held at St Francis on 28

April 3-5 PM. The event will be co-hosted by Dar Al Noor. Coordination with Dar Al Noor regarding format / structure for the event is well underway. St Francis V.O.I.C.E, assisted by the Secular Franciscans is organizing the event and the Pastoral Council is sponsoring. Fr John said the parish will provide refreshments.

4. Flyers on a Diocese Peace and Justice Commission presentation titled "The Dignity of Life in a Throwaway Culture", being held on March 23 at Nativity in Burke were distributed. Further information can be found online at <https://nativityburke.org/peace-and-justice-2019/>.
5. The William & Mary Women's Chorus will be presenting a conference on Thursdays March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Church at 7:00 PM.

**IX. Next Meeting:** There will be no April Meeting. The May meeting will be held at 9:30 AM, Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> in the Br. Juniper Room.

**X. Closing Prayer:** Marv Floom led the group in a closing prayer.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

**Respectfully submitted by Dan Sullivan**