

## **SJN Pastoral Council Minutes – August 16, 2016**

In Attendance: Fr. Pflieger, Sara Moynihan, Al Van Sciver, Tony Rodrigues, Ann Fredrick, Mark Hughson, Mike Miller, Frank Grochal, Joe Daverso, Karen Tordey, Donna Weldon

Guests: Fr. Colavito  
Linda and John Nasuti

Our meeting began with a prayer.

Old Business:

1. Constitution/Bylaw Changes – adjourned to September.
2. Faith in Future: Preliminary recommendations were reviewed and agreed upon by the Cohorts. There is a meeting tomorrow night, 8/17/16, the following points will be discussed:
  1. Consider eventual unlinking of SIJ and SJN.
  2. Consider collaboration with established Hispanic ministry in Mt. Holly.
  3. Explore more flexibility in RE program concerning where the family is registered and consider sharing resources.
  4. Given the data concerning Mass attendance, registered families, financial conditions and demographics, etc., SJN could continue as a vibrant parish on its own.
  5. The success of St. Mary of the Lakes Youth Ministry is an area to build upon since this is a critical area.
3. Youth Ministry: Karen reported the Splash event was very nice. Everyone had a great time. There were two carloads of youth from our parish in attendance. Sara commented that although she was not there, she heard it was fun event. Life Teen program will be brought to Youth Ministry Director.
4. Handicap Seating: This is a work in progress. Fr. Pflieger requested that the Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers (EEMs) should be bringing Holy Communion to the people in the handicap seating area in the front of the church first, so they don't have to get up. Father also requested that if there is any person with a disability sitting in the back of the church, the EEMs should wait till after Mass to distribute Holy Communion to them. Tony will instruct the EEMs on this new practice. It was commented that a reason some will continue to sit in the back of the church is the location to the restrooms. We need to look at and re-address handicap parking. A request was brought by a parishioner to remove the "Reserved" signs from the top of the pews because they use the pew tops to support their walking up the aisle. We may need to get a handicap placard for the pews.

5. Building Committee: This committee has been deferred to John Lynch. A meeting is scheduled for the beginning of September. It is not certain if those who were originally recruited for this committee are still involved. John needs to provide input.
6. Collection Counters: We need a bill counter. Possibly recommend to do counting at the 6pm Mass with the collection coming right in from that Mass. It would be good to have 3 or 4 counting groups. This would be a good selling point for recruitment, only needing to commit to once a month.

Electronic giving: there are no stats yet on electronic giving. After a discussion on how to get parishioners involved and online as well as its benefits to both the parish and parishioner, Fr. Pflieger agreed it should be promoted from the altar. Tony will head this up.

7. Ushers: We still need additional Ushers: men, women and youth. Usher procedures were received from Deacon Tom and given to Mike. He will be send them out via email for review and update at our next meeting. They will be posted in the sacristy after they are finalized and approved.

Joe mentioned a certification course from an EMT in Marlton who certifies people for \$25 per person in adult CPR, child CPR and ADD training. This could serve as potential Usher instruction/training.

8. Music Director: It was the general opinion of all that the new music director is doing a wonderful job. Tony added that the choir members like her and participation is up.
9. Liturgy Committee: The next meeting is in September. They are hoping to have a Mission for Advent, but if not, then for Lent. The committee is currently looking at a Lay Ministry to do the Mission. They received excellent recommendations on this Lay Ministry from two other parishes.

The Year of Mercy talks fell apart after the announcement came that the Monastery will be closing.

10. Farewell to Fr. Gabe: The Farewell went smoothly and was very nice. Fr. Pflieger recently spoke to him and said Fr. Gabe is doing well.
11. Ministry Fall Country Fair: We have a tentative date of October 15 & 16. John Lynch needs to check the parish calendar to confirm that weekend. All Ministries need to be contacted by their Ministry Liaisons to notify them of the tentative date. Each ministry should have a representative present to discuss their roles and responsibilities of the ministry. Day of the Fair, each ministry should have a

poster identifying the ministry, handouts with bullet points, and a contact name and number, etc.

Youth Ministry will also have a table at the fair. We are also counting on the Youth group to help the other ministries to set up/tear down, make posters, etc.

Parent Community Association (PCA) is also scheduled this weekend for a Fellowship Sunday. They will combine this with the Country Fair. Karen informed us via email that the PCA will not be having their Fellowship Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup> as they are not ready to begin yet.

Ministry Fair will be announced from the Altar.

12. Social Activities/Organization Event Request: Mike blocked out the following dates on the parish calendar for the Social Concerns activities:

10/21/16

12/16/16

2/17/17 – maybe Valentine’s Day Dance

5/19/17

Youth dance or other youth activities are welcome. The activity needs to be approved by Fr. Pflieger and the date is yours.

13. Parish Census: Fr. Pflieger wants this accomplished. Mark went onto Survey Monkey uploading pages of questions. He would like us to log on, review his questions and add our own, if necessary  
Mark targeted November for the survey to be up and running. Survey will be approved by Fr. Pflieger prior rollout.

14. HAIL to Fr. Colavito: Karen confirmed that Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, after the 11:30AM Mass, will be the date for the welcome reception for Fr. Colavito.

#### **New Business:**

15. H/ML Road Digital Sign: There is a deeded easement. Will start looking at and working with the township on what is needed.

#### **Round Table/Public Comments:**

Ann: School supplies were collected. We had 9 children and 7 adult helpers. There were 142 backpacks donated and they will be picked up Thursday. There are three places these supplies are sent. The bulk of them will go to Emergency Services. Nine filled backpacks will go to the group home in Mt. Laurel for high school boys, and the Harrington school (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

This was the lowest count of backpacks in 19 years. We usually receive anywhere from 175 to 200 backpacks. But Emergency Services is always grateful for whatever they receive.

Holy Day Mass (8/15/16) had no A/C. It was very hot. Ushers said the A/C was on Hold and Locked up. Fr. Pflieger said that the Ushers, Deacons and Priests should know how to, and be able to adjust the A/C as appropriate. We have permission to do so, per Fr. Pflieger.

Children chatter during Mass: A few parishioners asked Ann to bring this concern to the Council. After a brief conversation on children talking during Mass, parents and the Wee Worship Room, Fr. Pflieger said things will be kept as “status quo”.

Karen: Our Parish is up for a Catholic Charities award. It was suggested that Cathy Hegeman should go to the dinner; however, she will need transportation. Father said he is aware of the award and it has been in the works for six months. They are still working out all the details; SJN will have a table at the award dinner. Karen will provide Father with a write up on Cathy.

Mark: There was some confusion with the Holy Day, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Pflieger explained that the Diocese of Trenton observes this day as a Holy Day of Obligation because the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Diocese’s Patron Saint. The Chancery changed it and that’s where the mistake was made.

Do we have a Monastery closing update? There has been no further information from the Cistercians on the evaluation of the property. Once that is done the diocese will evaluate the property, then an agreement will be made. Father would like SJN to get the farm house and rosary garden; as the water is part of the fire system. It was stated that the farm house is zoned for private use by the township, as per the fire code.

Tony: Special Announcements should be moved to the end of Mass before the final prayer and blessing. This way more parishioners will hear the messages. Father asked the Liturgy Committee write up this suggestion and present to him.

Fr. Pflieger will work with Tony and approve where to hang Father Lino’s picture.

The Financial Report will be available if the Financial Committee approves the request. The next meeting is in September.

Sara: Will the Youth Choir start back up? Yes, it is one of the responsibilities of the Music Director. Sara has a list of names of the youth who are interested in joining the choir. She will email them to Tony.

Fr. Colavito: Father expressed his concern with parishioners just coming into the sacristy after Mass; it's not a public place and he doesn't want people just coming in. Realizing that this has been the "acceptable practice" in the past, we now need to move forward and set new practices in place regarding the sacristy.

Father explained he is floating between two parishes working with two RE programs, which are unlinked and RCIA with Deacon Tom, which is a linked ministry. Meetings will be held Monday nights and will alternate between SJN and SIJ. We have eight people already with a few more expressing interest in RCIA. Father wants to set up a Meet and Greet to show what it is first on an informal basis. He will be combining and merging the two different programs. Father has also been assigned by the Diocese as Chaplain at Holy Cross Academy.

Joe: Holy Eucharist Parish will give us the Microsoft Publisher template for their Welcome Package so we don't have to re-invent the wheel. We need to figure out what it will cost us to print/copy. We can get parish photos from John Lynch. We will need the church ministries to do a write up on their respective ministries to add to the package.

Linda Nasuti: Prayer shawls have been sent to Bright View, other nursing homes, and the home bound that are a part of SJN community. Father agreed the group should also extend their generosity and love via the prayer shawls to those in need within SIJ community, as we are all one parish. Father continued that these shawls are wonderful and very comforting to those who receive them.

Fr. Pflieger: We need to look at our Gathering Space and how it's used as we come out of Mass. It is not that large of a space for all that is happening at that time. I would like us to find a balance so those who are heading out are not bumping into those who stay and fellowship with each other.

The clergy got together last week and came up with a proposed Mass schedule for both SJN and SIJ. The mindset was this is one parish. Nothing is set in stone and nothing will be implemented until our Cistercian Monks have left with the finality of the Monastery closing. Father is asking for our input on this schedule. Please pray on it and comment back to him. This proposed schedule is to stay within this parish council only. Father thanked us for all we do. It's the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Meeting closed with a song.

Our next meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM.