

St. Pius X Pastoral Council Minutes - February 24, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:45pm

Present: Father George Bellenoit, Maureen Bach, Matt MacKechnie, Jenny Anastasio, Deacon Zeich, Steve Sozanski, Jean Kelly, Julie French

Following the agenda:

Opening Prayer

Opening prayer was led by Matt MacKechnie

Welcome

The Council welcomed newly discerned member Jenny Anastasio. Discerned member, George Levesque was not present. The council also welcomed back Maureen Bach, as our appointed member.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the December 2, 2013 meeting were accepted with no amendments.

***Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, Making Church Matter* by Michael White & Tom Corcoran**

Father George spoke of this book at the December meeting and acquired copies for PPC members to read by our next meeting on March 24th. As Fr. George mentioned, this book is the story of an individual Catholic Parish, it is not a blueprint. It is a thought provoking true account of the authors' experience in rejuvenating their church, encouraging discipleship – emphasizing the people of the Church. As a sidebar, there is a follow-up to this book, *Tools for Rebuilding: 75 Really, Really Practical Ways to Make Your Parish Better*.

Fr. George told us that the Diocesan Pastoral Council has also read *Rebuilt*. (They meet quarterly.) Fellow parishioner, Diane Morris is a member of this Diocesan Council and is willing to meet with us and share their thoughts about the book. When asked, all of the St. Pius X Council members present at the meeting agreed that having Diane come to and speak with us at a future meeting would be beneficial. Fr. George will be in touch with her to arrange this.

Steve Sozanski has read the book, loved it and feels fired up! He shared some passages regarding Mass Greeters, a subject near & dear to him, being the Greeter Coordinator for St. Pius X. He read both positive and negative examples of Greeting from the book which garnered discussion and ideas for our own Parish, especially because as New Englanders we can be a little less than welcoming. One suggestion Steve made was for each of us as Council members to be “honorary greeters” at whatever Mass we attend.

Deacon Zeich suggested adopting what he's experienced when visiting different parishes that begin Mass with an invitation from the priest to turn and greet your neighbor. Jean mentioned that the personality of each Mass is very different and a gradual approach to this kind of friendliness might have

more success than a sudden change. Fr. George stated this is a Liturgical Goal we could talk about at the next meeting.

Parish Website update information

Neil Dillon, who is the webmaster for our Parish website, gave a training to Steve, Julie and Deidre Journet (Assistant Director of Religious Ed.). The purpose was to help us become more proficient in the small updates we add to the website that augment the great work Neil donates to St. Pius. It was helpful but we're not experts yet!

Anniversary Committee

Jean said the committee has quite a few ideas in progress. The guiding goals in planning for the Anniversary Year are Social, Spiritual and Service. The committee is hoping to get Frank Runyeon <http://www.runyeonproductions.com/> to speak for the Parish Mission. An Anniversary Mass is being planned, inviting previous pastors with a picnic to follow. The Women's Club sold miniature church replicas many years ago which the Anniversary Committee is considering making those available again or perhaps replicas of our beautiful new interior, our altar at Christmas. Statues of St. Pius X have been made before by Doris Kelly's nephew, and they might be available again. A Parish service project is also being discussed with other Parish groups to avoid conflict. Steve suggested a HAC project called the Big Fix and also said he would email details to everyone.

Additional non-agenda topics discussed:

- Steve felt the time between the December meeting and the February meeting was too great. Fr. George responded that the Day of Reflection and time to pray together with our new members is just as important as our regular meetings.
- Maureen expressed her concern that next year we begin preparing for new candidates earlier, in August rather than mid-September.
- Steve asked if the "extra" unused budget envelope from Waltz could be put to some use. We encouraged him to explore the option and get back to us at the next meeting. Julie will forward the Waltz email to him from the Parish office.
- Fr. George reported that George Perkins reviewed the St. Pius X Parish Pastoral Guidelines in comparison the Diocesan Guideline to make sure we were on track and we are!
- Fr. George will have an updated calendar of meeting dates the next time we meet.

Our next meeting is March 24th at 7:30 pm. Karen will open with prayer, Maureen will take the minutes and Jean will do the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie French

