

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Parish Council Minutes
January 14, 2015

Present: Fr. Bob Franco, Shirley Fumich, Joe Hartman, Liz Welborn, Tom Fumich, Vince Farrell, Al Speigle, Cheryle Koberna, Michael Cox, Vince Loparo, and Niki Sherman.

Absent: Nancy Leciejewski

Opening Prayer: Michael Cox led us in opening prayer.

Reports from Commission Liaisons:

Education – Niki Sherman met with Father Bob and Sister Sean to discuss what resources are available from the diocese.

Evangelization – Vince Farrell reported that the commission will meet this Saturday. They are investigating a new project that would establish a call system to contact parishioners to ask as to their need for prayers or assistance from the parish.

Parish Life – Vince Farrell reported that they had 17 children from 10 families for the parent's afternoon out in December. The Lady's Luncheon is slated for March 7, 2015. They are obtaining additional round tables. Next Wednesday, the Knights will be sponsoring a Holy Hour for pro life.

Social Justice – Vince Loparo related that the December meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for February. They are currently working on the Rice Bowls which will be handed out on Ash Wednesday and the first Sunday of Lent. The Rice Bowls will also be distributed to the children at St. Peter School and PSR.

Spiritual Life – Cheryl Koberna reported that they have not met. Al had arranged for Dr. Andy Kereky to present a Family Prayer Workshop the next session will be next Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. He will also lead sessions on Prayer Discernment on February 3rd and February 10th.

The 2015 Parish Mission during Lent will be sponsored by St. Julie this year. They have engaged a speaker and musicians. St. Peter will sponsor the mission in 2016.

Michael Cox reported that the Youth Ministry is still doing Bible Study with middle school students every other week. They are having a lot of buzz about the new year and New Year Resolutions. They are having discussions about working on themselves physically & spiritually. They are having questions – a good sign. Mike has been working on collaborating with the

youth minister of St. Joseph of Amherst – “A Rally For Life!” on Saturday, January 24, 2015. They also plan to have the youth group attend a Holy Hour or Adoration – perhaps the upcoming Holy Hour for the Unborn on January 21st.

Discussion on Chapter 9 “Build From Below” of the book Rebuilt followed.

It was noted that St. Peter’s does have a few small prayer groups. Father Bob plans to visit with Father Bill Thaden of Sacred Heart in Lorain where they have implemented small groups that 1) preview the gospel, 2) pray about the gospel and share/discuss the meaning of the gospel, which 3) facilitates active listening.

Small faith sharing groups help build friendships, within the Church, getting to know others and building relationships leads to a more integrated church community. This, in turn, broadens involvement in the church. Joining a small group blossoms into a network.

What kind of small groups should we have? What size should the groups be? Should there be different sizes for different types of groups? How about share and support groups? Father Bob will pray for guidance.

One approach incorporates leadership training in their small groups and all small groups follow the same outline, starting with the same opening message, followed by a set of questions to facilitate exploring and discussing the topic – this is a lot like Alpha.

The approach described in Rebuilt requires a lot of preparation and work. The other approach appears to be a simpler method to implement.

Father Bob will update the group after his meeting with Father Bill about small groups. Possible small groups include Prayer Groups, Faith Sharing Groups and Gardening Groups. A possible expansion of small groups could focus more on personal relationships and less study oriented. Accountability is also something to be considered. One structure of small groups believes that each member of the group should have 3 roles (with 3 different members) within the group: a mentor – serve as a guide/role model; a fellow minister – a fellow member with whom you offer service/ministry; and an apprentice – a follower of a member who mentors you.

Food for thought to consider for our next meeting: a 2-5 word summary of our Parish Mission Statement – a Motto.

Pastor’s Report: Father Bob shared the following items:

Pro Life Holy Hour will be one week from today – 1/21/15 @ 7:00 p.m.

Sister Pat is retiring – pray for the search for her replacement..

Fran Hensel (director of the On Our Way Home Program) will also be retiring, this will also necessitate a staff search.

The Christmas program was a success. The parking arrangements worked well and it was a meaningful liturgy.

The Parish Mission is coming up March 22,23 and 24 at St. Julies.

Next month we will review Chapter 10 “Don’t Rob God” of Rebuilt.

Father Bob led us in closing prayer. Meeting closed at 9:03 p.m.

Next meeting is February 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Al will lead the opening prayer and Vince Loparo will bring the snacks.