

Pastoral Council March Meeting Notes

March 18, 2018

6:30 pm

Attendees: Tony, Cara, Maureen, Maureen F., Margot, Peer Ministers: Libby, Meg, Hannah, Donna, Amanda, Father Stephen, Colleen, Fran, Brooke, Joe, Bill.

Absent: Helen Keiser, Val LaShane and Peer Minister Michael Campanelli

Alpha- Tony & Donna-refer to Donna's hand out of notes from meeting attended.

Cyndie Baker, along with the parish of St. Ambrose, has been working on the renewal of their parish for a number of years. St. Ambrose Parish is the former merged parishes of St. Augustine of North Branford and St. Monica of Northford.

Tony & Donna met with Cyndie. They realized, after speaking with her that we may be starting at step 5 instead of step one. Alpha is a tool to accomplish your vision. Cyndie asked of them, what is your vision? What do you hope to accomplish? Most importantly you need this vision. Once your vision is defined then your first 6 months is to drive this vision home. Every person in the parish needs to know this vision. Keep it simple. All the ministries need to be behind the vision and to be aligned with the vision of the parish. Some ministries may need to be called fellowship groups, but there is a place for both ministries as well as fellowship groups. Don't be afraid to make changes. Know what we want to accomplish and with the goal you want to accomplish. The pastor of the parish preached to the parishioners about the vision of the parish so that the parish can know and buy into the vision. The leadership needs to be aligned with the vision. The goal is to bring the people to Christ.

You have to do Divine Renovation to begin this process. Alpha is a tool to help us define Divine Renovation may work in our Parish. Although this may take some time, this vision and model will likely transfer to the next term of Pastoral Council.

Pastor support is imperative! -Father agrees that there is much to be done yet. The revamp of the parish will not necessarily be a structural take down and rebuilding but how do we be more authentically catholic Christians. Father hope our parish becomes more of an avenue to lead others to Jesus. The point of our faith is not only to draw us closer to the Lord, but to also draw others to the Lord. The hope is to be a vibrant parish who evangelizes. The vision statement is a more expanded statement of what the organization of this parish sees our goals to be. What is the foundation. We need to start thinking and taking into account the vision of the parish and to give the next council the direction to continue with this process. Its up to us to educate people as to what the vision is. We have to think of the professional staff of the church and what their input is.

There should be an Alpha Team Leader so there is consistency in the message of this vision and that shares this vision with the pastor, the staff and all ministry leaders.

Suggestion: Dinner hosted inviting the leaders as well as the ones who may be the detractors.

Suggestion: reread Divine Renovation and should ask the next selected Pastoral Council members to also read the book.

Next Book: Divine Renovation Apprentice by Fr. Lobo

Recommendation: we need to start from square one to identify our vision. What is our culture? What's our vision? What do we want to be in the future? Alpha is the tool to begin this process.

FOR THE NEXT MEETING: **Vision Vs. Mission-refer to Tony's hand out**

Think on and come to next meeting with ideas of what our vision should be. Should be clearly understandable to everyone in the parish. The vision should have full buy in by the entire parish.

Reflect on the culture today...do we all agree on it...do we want it to change...if so why?

Fr. Mallon "The Game Plan"-PC to take it home to read and to discuss at the next meeting. -refer to Tony's handout.

Lifetouch-Brooke-If there are more families who want to retake or who missed the photography sessions Lifetouch is willing to come back to do that. Brooke felt like "it was a bomb" There was unwillingness to participate and to share information with the parish. Margot mentioned that there was a concern about their images and information being online and/or in a book. Fran mentioned that there was a concern from parents about their children's photos and info being out there. The idea of the vision is a greater opportunity to connect with one another. This might be a sign that we have more work to do in building community in other ways. Maybe we are not quite as communal as we thought we were.

Pastors Report-Fr. Stephen- OLM-ESCA to open this fall. We have begun registration. Pastors of the 3 parishes and 2 principals to meet to define roles and responsibly of one another and the parishes. Our parish still has responsibility to the school. We can reassess how we can promote and encourage catholic education. Meet and greet of teachers who have been offered positions on Tuesday 20th @ 6:30 all are welcome for this presentation of the STREM model.

The OEEC (Office of Evangelization, Education and Catechesis) is doing a presentation of how to move forward in a new model of Religious Education.

The ADOH(Archdioceses of Hartford) is defining and ongoing mission of resource of funding though the foundation to request monies in grant forms for the long-term sustainability of ALL parishes. This is beginning and we are currently in the "quiet phase" One of the phases s that each parish will have a capital campaign in the parish where there would be an established goal of 1.3X parish goal where half stay in the parish and half go to the foundation for bigger need of other parishes. We don't have a specific need for \$600,000 so a thought was to continue Father Shanley's vision of phase 3 of adding onto the building and to add space for the religious education building. The time and space are really needed during the weekend and evening hours. The campaign would require being pledged and paid over 3 years. Is it time to think about this phase 3 project now and use these funds for this purpose. 1.2 million would be the figure with the ADOH receiving the \$600,000 of their goal and then getting the additional monies for our purpose. We need to clarify the foundation goal first and then the importance of having the churches participate. This give the parishes opportunity to contribute and support the ADOH and to give towards projects that may not have been able to do in the past. Managed by lay people and will be quite transparent. This is an opportunity for planning for the future. **We need to**

decide; do we go with straight campaign and what do we use the funds for or are we doing to decide to go along with phase 3.

Let's begin the process in looking at phase 3? For next month please provide your feedback on what your thoughts are. Let's explore what our needs are.

Parish evaluation project with Fr. Tom Sweetzer can come in to work with the parish and the PC of how to start a needs analysis of where we begin.

Pastoral Council Selection Process-refer to Tony's handout

4 members' terms are up and 3 current members are eligible for reelection.

We will need help from PC to stuff the bulletins. Tony will let us know which weekend he needs our help with stuffing the bulletins. This should take no more than an hour of your time if you are available.

There is a meeting Wednesday May 30th preparatory meeting for parishioners interested in joining Pastoral Council. Please attend this informational meeting if possible. If you have any questions e-mail Tony.

May 20th-Tony is on vacation

June meeting 6/24 changed to Wednesday June 20th time TBD.

Black Rock Church Website-Joe Nelly: Located in Fairfield Connecticut. Starting point groups...Seeker...Restarter....Christ Followers (3 groups) Budget-operating 3.6 million....ministry work 1.1 million. They have several open houses and have service for young adults on weeknights at 6:30. They have several groups and much involvement. Joe would like to see St George possible have open houses so more people could witness what we have here at St. George. Father identified that we indeed can learn from one another but need to stay true and within the Catholic Church Guidelines.

Peer Ministry- Haiti Trips are very exciting and there is an Appalachia trip coming up. Fundraiser coming up on Palm Sunday for the Haiti Trip selling flowers. The St. George Men's Group has been asked to assist in doing a pasta dinner fundraiser, they have not responded just yet.

Next meeting April 29th @6:30