

St. Martha Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2017
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Present: Father Mike, Sister Anita, Chair Jim Collom, Monica Dowell, Mike Horvath, Jean Jorgensen, Soraya Nowland, Jackie Rosalez, Mike Bobinski, Judi Smelser, Secretary David Flint, Don Morgan, Doug Hunter, John Rue

Absent: Ron Styka, Carl Boehlert, John Finn

Meeting began at 7:02 pm with an opening prayer

Business

* **Building update by Don Morgan:** On Sunday the new addition was opened for tours. 167 people toured the facility. Don is going to check to see if a hallway is needed in the lower level due to the class rooms being locked, and a concern was raised if there is a need for another emergency exit on the west end of the building.

* **Catholics Come Home/Grow and Go:** Sister Anita, Don Morgan, Jim Collom, Soraya Nowland, Jackie Rosalez, and Father Mike all attended a meeting down town with the Diocese last weekend regarding implementation of this program. The Diocese has contracted with a company to advertise this campaign on TV and Social Media. The Social Media aspect will have links to each individual Parish. Father Mike wants to have Advent postcards mailed out to the community at large inviting people to attend Masses at Christmas as part of this campaign.

On November 26, 2017 the Grow and Go portion of this campaign will begin. This program is intended to encourage people to come back to the Church. Father Mike will be preaching this program from the pulpit that weekend and will continue this preaching as a yearly campaign to try and bring back the "lost sheep" in our community.

These campaigns are targeting people in the 25-35 year old age group. The company organizing this for the Diocese has research that shows the primary reason people do not attend Church is that they say they are too busy. They also have found that for this program to be successful people are more likely to return to the Church if they receive a personal invitation to come back to the Church. The Parish needs to schedule a training/planning session on how our Parish will be implementing this program. A date for this will be decided at a later date. The charge for this program is \$6 per Parish household. The Diocese is paying \$3 and each Parish pays \$3.

Annie Bennett has volunteered to continue doing the Facebook page for the Parish on what people will be doing as families for the Advent season.

* **Father Mike:** The Parish has received to date \$350,000 from the insurance company regarding the embezzlement case at Saint Martha. He informed us that the Diocese will be doing "systems reviews" of each Parish every 3 years. If "red flags" come up during the systems reviews, audits will be implemented. Father Mike is going to look into what the cost would be for our Parish to have another full audit of our Parish. He would not have this done until after the July 2018/July 2019 fiscal year is complete because that would be the first full year that the Parish would be outside of the embezzlement audit.

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- * **Father Mike continued:** A question was raised as to who hired the current Bookkeeper and our current Operations Manager. This question was raised along with the question as to whether these job opportunities were posted for people to apply for the positions. Father Mike said that Simplified Accounting was chosen by the Diocese and himself when the audit brought up problems with the Parishes finances. This Accounting Firm does multiple Churches in the area. He also stated that regarding the Operations Manager position, he considered several people for the position, and Don Morgan was interviewed by him and by administrators of the Diocese as well before he was given the position. Simplified and Don were brought in soon after the transition, when prompt action was necessary. From this point forward all Parish positions will be posted. Father Mike also noted that most of the mid-sized and larger Parishes in the Diocese have Operations Managers.
- * **Music Ministry Volume:** Father Mike will discuss this issue with our Music Director again. It was noted by one of Parish Council members that because of her hearing aid usage, she almost had to leave Mass this past weekend because the volume in church was so loud for her.
- * **Parish Pictorial Directory:** The number of people participating was down compared to previous Directories
- * **Installation Mass:** November 29, 2017 will be held at 6 pm with Bishop Boyea presiding to install Father Mike officially as our Parish Priest. There will be no town hall meeting as was held the last time the Bishop was at Saint Martha. Cookies and Refreshments will be available.
- * **St. Martha School** has a student with severe life threatening allergy to peanuts and nuts. The school is now a peanut free school.

Meeting ended with a prayer at 8:30 pm.