

All Saints Pastoral Council Minutes
March 8, 2017

Council Members: Linda Basilico, Shannon Eggleston, Bill Neumayer, Karin Seubert, Alyse Cadez, Dave Goeckner, Fr. Shiyo, Fr. Neely

Opening prayer: Fr. Shiyo led the council in prayer to begin the meeting

- **Approval of Minutes**

February minutes were emailed for approval prior to meeting. Submitted corrections were made and minutes are posted to the website.

- **School Report –Denise Hammrich-**

No report.

- **Parish Focus-Fr. Neely and Dave Goeckner**

Dave presented the council with a half hour video from Jeff Cavins about the challenges of and joys of faith formation at the parish level. The video can be viewed at: <https://amazingparish.org/compelling-formation-jeff-cavins/> Dave expressed he felt this was an amazing formation video.

A few key points included, but were not limited to:

- Recognizing a parish can be healthy, but can have a broken area or areas.
- A few things can be done to really transform a parish. The job of the leadership team (pastor, parish administrator, D.R.E.) is knowing where to put the "chalk marks". Knowing where we are broken, address this issue to decide our purpose as a parish.
- Church is evangelization
- Purpose is equipping, disciples, the parish doing something.
- Give the parish a picture of what all this is. Paint a picture of what it means to be a disciple. A picture of the life, the death, the resurrection, the glory of the Holy Spirit as it is working to form us.
- Make the complex simple.
- The real emphasis is on the foundational salvation story.
- Identifying and defining the parish focus is essential.
- Deciding where your formation program is going to be is a key element. Formation can be viewed as equipping the saints for a particular purpose. When the parish can see the end goal they can see the importance of the opportunities the parish is offering.
- Our faith can become our hobby. Without a clear picture and understanding of the purpose/formation, we can become fans of Jesus not followers.

Fr. Neely summarized the simplification and focused effort being on the salvation story, a grounding for the things we keep in the "iCloud" of our person information as we go along. It is a tragedy when there is a split between faith and everyday life.

Dave pointed out the necessity of knowing the basics of the faith. Pointing to the knowing Bible basics. He referred to how the book "Bible Basics for Catholics" outlines a couple options to "tell the story"- to get the basic overview.

Fr. Neely asked the council how prevalent is it that we don't have the foundational story? Several council members expressed they felt it was very prevalent. Bill Neumayer wondered how important do people take the basic faith practice of being a sponsor or godparent. Just how deeply do we embrace Christ? How do we as a group get ourselves to the place where we spread the word? Fr. Neely suggested this can be achieved by a coordinated effort. How is it we coordinate everything, to lay it out?

Karin made the point people need the relationship, to have the interest in knowing more about their faith.

The end goal is ultimately to expose people to the whole experience. Need to start the story. Which comes first - the salvation history or what it gives to how to live my life now? We need a long term plan. If we are going to excite people about Jesus, first you form a relationship.

The question was asked how does Chris Stefanik coming to All Saints in November tie into the focus being presented.

Dave responded that the event is to provide an opportunity for people to hear the basic Gospel message.

The Alpha program is then pointing people in the direction of what fits specifically for their interests.

(The Alpha for Catholics program is in the early stage of a pilot program at All Satins. A link to a short video in which Fr. Riccardo describes his parish's Alpha experience is given here, <https://vimeo.com/161200822>, as an informational reference.)

Dave pointed out how well the Chris Stefanik event could prepare for the Alpha program. Alpha is more of a primary focus. Still we have advent retreats and other offerings. One thing won't appeal to all, but remember the focus is here at All Saints. We have a mission here. Then we go out as disciples once we are formed.

Communication is key after the Chris Stefanik event. It is important to make the invite to further formation easy to happen. Initial marketing, addressing the bigger questions of life, giving things a place to develop, these are positive steps. Dave sees the kinks working out with the support of a long term vision and focus.

Shannon asked what is going on with pastoral council monthly presentation, report to the parish. Fr. Neely pointed out it was never "stopped". A variety of factors were outlined as to how it got off track. Fr. Neely stated it was fine to resume and pointed out they will mostly entail the advance information and somewhat what is happening.

Many questions, concerns, opinions, and convictions were expressed by various council members. A variety of schematics were pointed out and taken into consideration. The concept of posting Mass announcements was introduced.

Alyse asked if council member rotation could be focused on next meeting.

- **Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the council will be April 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in consideration of Holy Week.

Closing Prayer:

The council concluded the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Gallagher