

St. Sebastian Parish Pastoral Council

Regular Meeting – 23 April 2015

IN ATTENDANCE: Father John Valencheck Rich Dobson, Member
Pat Clark-Varga, Chair Sara Beis, Member
Jan Alpeter, Member John Jewell, excused
Todd Dekatch, Member Jim Dietrich, Member
Rob Sveda, Member Brandon Foster, Member
Chris Montana, Member Candace Bates, Member
Cyndy Cook, Guest Secretary Fr. Ed Leonard

Call to order at 7:00 PM by Council Chair, Pat Clark-Varga.

The Opening Prayer: Rich Dobson

Special Report, Adam Keeler, Academy of Arts & Culture:

- Adam discussed his background and education and his vision for the future of the Academy.
- His goal is for it to become a permanent and self-sustaining part of St. Sebastian Parish.
- They have plans to improve the website for the Academy and make better use of social media in promoting it.
- A student recital is planned for May 31st and a CD of students' performances will be made.

Special Report, Michelle Huber, Director of Marketing and PR:

- Michelle discussed the planned farewell celebration for Fr. Kovacina to take place during the Donut Sunday get together on June 7th, the Feast of Corpus Christi.
- St. Sebastian will once again participate in the Pilgrimage Walk on Saturday, June 6th.
- Father Jeremy Murtzweiler's ordination celebration will take place following the 11 am Mass on Sunday, May 17th.
- The Parish handbook will be available sometime in May and 1,250 copies will be directly mailed to parishioners. Other copies will be available in the Rectory Office.
- "Slim Jim" promotional mailers will be sent out to local West Akron households.
- The new email address for St. Sebastian Parish will be Church@stsebastian.org for questions and comments. Jennifer Jones will be checking its inbox on a regular basis.
- September Spectacular chair couple this year are Steve and Holly Wilt and the theme will be "Inspiring the Critical Thinkers of Tomorrow" and STEM initiatives will be the fundraising goal.
- Discussed the trip Parish members including Father Valencheck planned to Belden Brick.

Pastor's report (Father Valencheck):

- Father reported that the contracts for the brick parking lot project had been executed at a slightly higher than projected but still manageable cost.
- Final computer lab contracts were signed and the project is projected to come in under the initial budget

1 | *April-2015*

- St. Sebastian should be notified by May 3rd whether St. Sebastian will be able to go ahead with plans to assist in developing a school for high-functioning children on the autism spectrum.
- A mandatory audit of the Parish by the Diocese of Cleveland is underway.
- Several new groups such as a Bike and Hike group and a Young Adult Group are being formed at the Parish
- A successful trip to the Seminary was taken with several interested high school boys and several high school girls have expressed interest in a similar trip being arranged for them to an appropriate location

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes

- March meeting minutes approved and will be sent to be posted.

Other

Discernment of new Parish Council Members

- 11 interested candidates were considered for the 4 positions which will need to be filled

NEW BUSINESS

- *Merzweiler reception following first Mass (May 17) Sara Beis*
 -
- *Fr. Kovacina farewell at June 7th Donut Sunday Pat Clark-Varga*
 -
- *Formation of a new Hospitality Committee Sara Beis*
 -

Pulse of the Parish

- [Candy Bates] inquired as to why recycling facilities were not made available at the International Festival
- [Jennifer Sullivan] wondered if there would be any interest in establishing a group dedicated to discussing and promoting Natural Family Planning
- [Dick Spangler] was concerned about possible misapprehensions regarding the Latin Mass among the rest of the Parish
- A parishioner wondered if covers for the Breaking Bread books might be worth investing in
- A parishioner pointed out that AM1260 the Rock (Catholic Radio) would be returning to the area
- [Isabel Wendt] wondered about the possibility of establishing a Nazareth Family Group at St. Sebastian which would meet monthly
- [Pat] Dick Spangler (1:00 pm Mass usher) sent copies of two handouts available for (and given to) visitors to that Mass. "People really use them [the handouts] and can keep them. We're quite amazed at the continual flow of new people to this Mass. One young woman has come twice (from Cuyahoga Falls). I was talking with her and she mentioned she's not even Catholic (or anything.) First she tried the 11:00 am Mass but said it was too noisy and too unfocused. So, she came back at 1:00 pm and loved it."
- A parishioner commented that our Breaking Bread book covers begin to deteriorate rather quickly in the liturgical year. She was recently at a Cleveland parish and saw book covers into which paperback books can be slipped, in order to preserve the covers. Is this idea a possibility?

COMMISSION REPORTS

Please note that Secretary will endeavor to include highlights of commission reports if they are sent ahead by email and those reported during the meeting. If items are sent ahead, please be sure that the name of the Commission is on the report as well as the date of the report. Typed (paper) reports may be included by reference only.

Worship:

- Jim Dietrich reported that the Ushers group through James Watson was concerned about the accessibility of the fire extinguisher in the Usher's Room. Aaron Salisbury to be notified.
- [Pat] James Watson (Head Usher) is concerned that the fire extinguisher is not visible in the ushers' room. The extinguisher hangs in the corner directly behind the entrance door to the room and is not visible to anyone once the door is open. He asked that the extinguisher be hung in a better location.

Spiritual Life and Faith Formation:

- [Pat] Jennifer Sullivan asked if the parish can sponsor and promote a Natural Family Planning informational night. A fellow parishioner, who wished she'd known about it many years ago when she was a newlywed, was lamenting: "Why isn't this message broadcasted more widely?" Jennifer is excited with its potential to strengthen marriages. She would like to help, and thinks women in the new Moms group would also get involved. Kelly Rybka (the Rybkas are an NFP teaching couple in our parish) said that they have advertised their classes in the bulletin but have never gotten a response. She thinks such an informational night is a great idea, and also recommends finding ways to teach our youth and young adults. A presentation given at each Pre Cana Day has never generated any couples registering. Kelly recommends, based on research, that the priests have to put their full support (including participation) behind this message. Kelly would love to put something together. Our parish has two teaching couples. But Kelly emphasized the need for the full support and participation of our priests.
- [Pat] From Jennifer Sullivan: The Moms of St. Sebastian group is progressing nicely; I am working on getting some "promotional materials" printed up to spread the word about the group. The first two Faith Sharing sessions have been attended by 8-10 moms plus their kids. I appreciated the [Stewardship] write-up in the bulletin, thank you!
- [Candy] PSR – Melane Francis
- First Communion is Saturday for all second graders.
- There will be a May reception for PSR families.
- There will be a May rosary and a May crowning for PSR.
- All PSR teachers (and Miss Francis) are volunteers.

- Pre-Cana – Cindy Kendrick
- No report
-
- Music Ministry – Lynn Frey-Steward
- No report

Parish Life:

- K of C:

- Conducted a sale of raffle tickets during the International Festival and are collecting scrap and having a trunk sale to raise money
 -
 - Ski Club:
 - Done for the season
 - Scouts
 - The Boy Scouts will hold their Spring Campout during the weekend of May 15th.
 -
 - Athletics
 - New President of the Booster Club is Joe Pentasuglio
 - The next Night at the Races may be re-scheduled
 - Donut Sunday: Ro Reed is the new director of this Ministry.
 -
 - (Candy) Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry: Cathy Sivec
- Faith Lodge - Our last Faith Lodge session will be Thursday May 21st
- RCIA - Our RCIA Mystagogy will continue through May 24 - Pentecost
- PSR - The children and families will have May Crowning, Living Rosary and a family social in Zwisler hall on May 17th and this will conclude PSR for this year.
- CLOW - Our last CLOW will be Sunday May 17th
- Confirmation - We are still waiting on the Confirmation Mass date from the Bishop's office. All other dates are planned and ready to go.
- First Reconciliation - Next year's First Reconciliation date is Saturday February 6, 2016 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the church.
- First Communion - Our First Communion Mass will be this Saturday April 25, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Please pray for our 2nd graders
- Baptism - Our next Baptism session will be Monday May 11th from 7-8 p.m. in Byrider Hall
- Youth Ministry - The group is very excited to be having a movie night with our priests this Saturday evening in the rectory basement. We will be viewing Big Hero 6 and having pizza and snacks with them. We are hosting a junior high dance on May 8th from 7-9:30 p.m. in Zwisler Hall to raise money for Steubenville.
- Youth ministry students helped with the International Festival this past weekend by working in the game rooms and face painting.
- We will be cleaning up the parish grounds on Monday and Tuesday next week.
- We will be running donut Sunday on May 3rd
- Young Adult Group – Our first event is Friday May 21st – We are showing a movie on the lawn in the Courtyard area. Young adults are invited to come join us from 7-10:15 p.m. for dinner and a showing of The Princess Bride.

Social Justice/Community Outreach

- [Pat] The Mothers' Day Carnation sale will take place this year, to benefit Right to Life of Northeast Ohio. Betty Reagan, her daughter, and Jennifer Sullivan will oversee the event.
- [Candy] St. Sebastian/ St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry April 19, 2015
- Members Present: Annie Burris, Greg Sain, Carolyn Varner, Larry Furman, Mary Yanko
- Prayer: Larry read the prayer to Mary from The Joy of the Gospel.
- Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and approved to be placed on file.
- General Session:

4 | April - 2015

- Mary led the discussion of *Evangelii Gaudium*, Chapter 5, Spirit filled Evangelizers. (notes are attached).
- The group discussed the importance of accepting the energy of a new evangelization, guided by the Spirit. The motivation is always moving toward the common good. There is an urgency to learn to listen to others in love, without judgment. Discussion included the statement “closing our eyes to our neighbor also blinds us to God” (Benedict XVI) and how this statement calls for action. Pope Francis spoke about the power of the intercessory prayer and using a Marian style for evangelization. Mary is a strong symbol as the mother of the Church. Above all else the call for Evangelization is joy filled.
- Mary reported on The Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium that she attended at Crown Point. It was produced by the Pachamama Alliance. This symposium focused on ecology, sustainability and spirituality. The session moved from disturbing facts and reality to hope and empowerment.
- Information included daily practice ideas to awaken the: Relationship with Self; spiritual Fulfillment; Relationship with the Earth: Environmental/ Sustainability; Relationship with Others: Community and Social Justice. Mary purchased a Sustainable World Sourcebook, which should be valuable as we read the awaited apostolic exhortation on the environment. A list of Faith-based sustainability websites was also distributed.
- The May meeting will focus around a discussion of “Organizing A Parish Social Ministry Team”. This document was emailed to the group previously.
- Catholic Commission Update
- Greg reported that those who attended the Faith Lodge series were very complimentary. The commission continues to discuss administration of the Death Penalty and its inequities.
- The Catholic Commission will host Sacraments and Social Mission Parish Network Meeting on Thursday May 21, 6- 8 pm at St. Hilary Church.
- Lenten Series Summary
- The over-all sense of the series within the group was very positive. Fr. Kovacina and Deacon Terry were lauded for their part. There was a general feeling that the talks could have been more social justice oriented with more discussion. The series was an important opportunity for the group to present itself in a positive way. There were a total of 47 people who attended (non social justice group members).
- A suggestion for next year; Global Solidarity (CSR Ambassador Program.)
- New Business:
 - Greg asked for a renewed discussion regarding the name of our group.
 - Greg also suggested a discussion on ways to incorporate St. Sebastian’s Right To Life group with our group.
- Announcements:
 - First Friday May 8th: Fr. Leo Patalinghug “Grace before Meals; Food for the Body, Mind and Soul”
 - Carolyn recommended the group look up David Brooks: The Moral Bucket List and google an interview with David Brooks and Judy Woodruff on PBS.

5 | April-2015

- Prayer & Treat: Mary Y.
- Next Meeting: Sunday May 17, 2015

School

- [Jan] School principal: Sandra Isabella:
-
- First Communion is this Saturday at 11:00. Please pray for our second graders.
- May Masses: May 7th: May Crowning, May 15th: Scholarship Mass, May 28th: Pass it on Mass
- Graduation is June 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Last day of school is June 4th.
- Walkathon is Friday, May 22nd. The theme is red, white and blue.
- Thank you for support of our school.

Administration

- [Jan] Academy of Culture and Arts: Headmaster: Adam Keeler
- Adam is presenting Academy updates to Parish Council.
- [Pat] Ken Contrera, Chair, St. Sebastian Finance Council: At the April 21st meeting, we will finalize our discussions regarding the Brick Parking Lot, get an update on the September Spectacular, and forecast where we will end up financially on June 30th.
 - The Parish Council By-Laws [Article VII, Section 2] states that “(C.) The Chairperson of the Finance Council shall brief Parish Council on the proposed budget before it is finalized.” Pat asked the new chairperson of St. Sebastian Finance Council (SSFC), Ken Contrera, if he knew why this statement was included. He said he did not know. But he did say that he could present the not-yet finalized budget to Parish Council. Ken added a suggestion that Parish Council could request monies to be set aside for certain projects, provided that the necessary approvals first be obtained from Fr. Valencheck and then, depending upon the amount requested, make a request directly to SSFC.

Other

- [Sara] Catholic Radio is coming to Cleveland, Ohio! From the website of AM 1260 “The Rock”:
- St. Peter the Rock Media was started by a Cleveland group interested in providing a strong 24-hour-a-day Catholic radio station for Cleveland residents and commuters. The corporation, a lay apostolate that seeks to share the message of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Faith, has filed for 501(c)(3) status. Its mission is to provide quality programming faithful to the teachings of the Church, and presented in a way that inspires conversion of heart and deepening of faith, while building up the local Body of Christ.
- The station should start broadcasting in early May 2015 – next month! I’m happy to be helping out by doing AM 1260’s Social Media for the time being. So...

Closing Prayer presented by Todd DeKatch. Meeting adjourned – 8:45 PM

Next meeting scheduled for 28 May 2015

Opening Prayer: Candy & Closing Prayer: Sara.

6 April-2015

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndy Cook, Guest Secretary

7 April- 2015