

Common Pastoral Council
Minutes from the September 22, 2016 Meeting

Members Present: *Father Mike, Father Tim, Katie Falk, Marcia Frankiewicz, Heidi Belongia, Annette Lucchesi, Paul Burgoyne, Tom Ewing, Pat Suminski, Steve Luke, Rosemary Reyes Cuevas, Jenny Mendenhall, Diane Bandurski, Jennifer Wall, Jon Kuta, Katy Borowski, Ginny Kollasch, Chris Hauser and Dave Tully.*

- I. **Prayer and Adoration**
- II. **Benediction**
- III. **Meeting Called to Order** (*Father Mike*)
- IV. **Structured Conversation: Visioning** (*Katie Falk*)

Parish Successes Over the Past 5 Years: Each parish shared highlights of successes over the past five years:

- **OSM:** Increased attendance (generally, young people, and people who work downtown). Increased weddings and baptisms. Community outreach efforts, including the Riverwest Food Pantry. St. Anne's Society and window dedication (St. Anne and Mary).
- **SSPP:** Listening Campaign and revitalization plan. Balanced budget. New approach to giving. Communication Team. Family Ministry Team (vacation bible school, parents groups). Meal ministry.
- **OLDP:** Riverwest Food Pantry and community garden. Merging of two parishes into one community. Improvements to the experience at mass. Right support staff in place. Art walk and concert series.
- **THW:** Increased membership and families with children. Social Justice (Andrew Musgrave). Promoting community through events. Catholic East School. Building renovation. Opening up churches during community events (Brady Street).

Litany of Thanksgiving – Past Leadership & Parishioners: Father Mike led the CPC in a litany of thanksgiving for past leadership and parishioners. Each parish shared histories, stories, and remembrances.

Goals & Vision for the CPC (*Katie Falk*): Each member made suggestions for the goals and visions of the CPC including the following:

- Finding ways to reach out to new people at mass. This should involve letting people know more about each parish and getting them involved. For example, Joe Wittmann does a great job of soliciting lay volunteers for the choir at OSM.
- Promoting activities that bring more people together outside of mass. For example, OSM used to do “hospitality Sundays.”
- Leveraging social media (*e.g.*, parish websites, Facebook, Twitter, *etc.*) to reach young people and people who are looking for a community.
- Creating an overall communication strategy that reaches both existing parishioners and draws new members in.

- Developing and training parishioners to become parish leaders. Broaden group of volunteers so that the same people do not need to do everything.
- Considering a “listening campaign” to understand what existing parishioners want/need from the CPC. Need to be intentional about staying connected to the parishes.
- Promoting efforts to bring people to mass (*e.g.*, “Share a meal, Come to mass”).
- Sharing best practices of the parishes as part of CPC meetings. Building a toolkit that others can use to solve issues/concerns.
- Being purposeful about drawing people in. Need to be a community; more than just coming to mass.
- Creating a central calendar across all parishes. Keeping people connected as to events and activities across the family of parishes.
- Using technology resources to reach out to the community (*e.g.*, calendar, Facebook group, kiosks or other informational centers in the churches, *etc.*)
- Reaching out to people who are moving into our neighborhoods or into Milwaukee.
- Promoting communication across the family of parishes.
- Promoting evangelization by existing parishioners.
- Communicating the “good news” inside and outside our family of parishes. Tapping into PR/social media to get the word out.
- Collaborating across parishes for community events (*e.g.*, Bastille Days)
- Creating a larger and more diverse community across the parishes. Retaining individual characteristics but coming together as one community.
- Supporting existing parishioners in new ways.
- Encouraging people to attend mass at other churches by communicating mass times and events more clearly.
- Considering a mission outpost in the Third Ward. Becoming “mission parishes” through action.
- Adopting a poor parish in the city to share resources and build community. (*e.g.* Congregation of the Great Spirit)
- Working more closely with the parish staff members.
- Promoting the gospel of social justice and working to address the problems in Milwaukee.

Action Item: Father Tim challenged the CPC to pray on the above list and discern one idea to accomplish in the next 6 weeks. All members will submit their choice by October 3, 2016 by “replying all” to the email distributing the minutes. Father Tim and Father Mike will review and choose the top three suggestions and make a final decision.

Action Item: We discussed spending 15 minutes of each meeting to share “best practices” and “worst practices” (*i.e.*, problems, issues, opportunities, *etc.*) across the parishes. The goal of these discussions will be to develop a “toolkit” that can be used by all parishes. **“Ministry of Hospitality”** is the topic for the October 27, 2016 meeting. Each parish is to come prepared to discuss “best and worst practices” on that topic.

V. **Closing Prayer**

VI. **Next Meeting: October 27, 2016**