

3/12/15 Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

Next Meeting: 4/8/15 7pm

In attendance: Harriet, Melvin, Ann, Nancy, Mrs. Johnson, Fr. Frank, Eileen, Bozena, Sabina, Margaret

Topics:

- School Update:

All documents were sent in for advanced ed accreditation (North Central). They will come to visit 40 schools in the archdiocese (not St. Helens) in April, however, 20 principals (including Mrs. Johnson) will be meeting with the accreditors.

Carnival- Aug 21-23 1st Day of School- Aug 25th

46 students were confirmed in February. Bishop Rojas celebrated a mass with the school on a Friday.

Fathers' club had a Darling Daughter (200 people) dance last Saturday. Hopefully will become an annual event.

Tuesday 3/17 there will be a Mom's & muffins continental breakfast.

Drama club will be presenting Aladdin on 5/12.

Registration is at 446.

Living Stations 3/27 at 8:15.

Letters of acceptance from High School: St. Ignacious, DePaul, Trinity, Gordon, Josephinum, Westinghouse, Whitney Young, Jones, Lane

Terra Nova tests were held last week.

- An annual Meeting with the Bishop, the Dean and St. Helen Pastor occurred since last Parish Council Meeting.

Each parish in the Archdiocese was split into one of six waves for the "To Teach Who Christ Is" campaign. The final wave will begin July 1st, and St. Helen is due to begin in this round.

Archdiocese employees will be coming to St. Helen Parish for a Parish Turnaround, which will offer suggestions for improvement.

- Faith Formation for 3-5 year olds:

A Family Faith Formation for 3-5 year olds and their adults was proposed. The proposal is 4 90min classes throughout the year for the children and their adults. There will be a notice in the bulletin asking for a co-leader for this class.

- Fr. Jonathan Mission- 10-15 people attended each night.
- Coffee- is nice as an icebreaker that will continue to occur.

- Report on Parish Leadership Day:

Archbishop Cupich's Q&A- Q- is he planning on closing churches who have debt? A- He said no. But he said there are some neighborhoods that have parishes every three blocks, and those parishes could work together to keep them vibrant. They are looking for evidence of new life in the parishes. If there are more funerals than baptisms, that is a red flag.

- There was another discussion about singing at mass. It was noted again that many people at mass no longer participate in the music. A request was again put forward by the Parish Council to encourage music that more people enjoy using to celebrate.
- How can the parish pastoral council communicate better with the parish? Add a blurb in the bulletin that the parish council notes are on the bulletin and on the website. Also include when the next meeting is. Create an email account for parishioners to be able to send online feedback. (sthelenparishcouncil@gmail.com) "Flock Notes" was suggested. This is a service that collects phone numbers for texting. She will gather more details and review the costs with Father Frank.
- Young Adult Group: Suggestion- Have a short scripture passage in the bulletin about service and invite parishioners to meet and discuss how we can encourage service in our community. Feedback was to have a meeting after mass or after Taizè.
- There was a suggestion to hold a talk having Fr. Frank talk about his memories of Saint JP II on May 17th and advertise on Relevant Radio.
- The council was asked to revisit the topic of honoring Saint John Paul II at our parish by holding a monthly novena and also a chapel dedicated to him.
- St. Helen has formed a new Council of Knights of Columbus, 23 members. We are allowed to have members through 3 levels.
- Stations of the Cross: parishioners have asked if a priest can lead the Stations of the Cross.
- There was a request from Parishioners to move future Taizè to Sunday evening after the 6pm mass if it is organized again.