

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2018
St. Francis Xavier Church, West Room

Attendees: Jack Schmitt, Michelle Jung, Debbi Olley, Kathleen Cagnina, Charles Mileski, Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe, Patrick Egan, Karen DeMasi

1. Opening Prayer – Patrick Egan

2. Pastor's report—Fr. Bob was unable to attend this meeting due to a schedule conflict, and submitted a written pastor's report, read by Jack Schmitt.

- Fr. Bob's main focus over the past few weeks has been on the Lenten Season. Liturgical environment has been kept simple, and a team of volunteers is maintaining it, as Angel Salas and Michael DeBernardis have been out sick.
- Fr. Bob has been offering a **Lenten Conversation** between 9 AM and 11:30 AM masses, using Elizabeth Johnson's book *Consider Jesus* as a resource. Attendance has been 15-25 people each week and response has been encouraging
- Rehearsals underway for *What Wondrous Love is This?*, a danced evening prayer, for Holy Week (scheduled for March 21st), and the dramatic Passion, which will be presented at masses on Palm Sunday
- A steady number of new registrations continue each week, some from people who have attended Xavier for years but hadn't registered. Fr. Bob communicates with each new registrant and response has been positive.
- Xavier parish will participate in the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal, which will begin in April and last until the Archdiocese's "Renew+Rebuild" capital campaign begins in the fall.
- After a meeting with a group of Spanish-speaking parishioners, plans are underway for monthly liturgy/fiesta on Saturdays at 6PM. The first one is scheduled for April 21st. Efforts are being made to get the word out to the clients of the Food Pantry, many of whom are Hispanic.
- Fr. Bob will collaborate with Fr. Jim Mayzik, a Jesuit at Epiphany parish, on an adult confirmation program, which will begin in April. He has already received expressions of interest from some of the young adult population at Xavier.

3. Follow-up on gathering of Staff, Ministry Leaders and PC

- Working from Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe's comprehensive list of ideas/input collected at the Gathering, Patrick Egan organized the list by categories and listed ideas in order of level of support (as indicated by stars)

- Question of how best to approach addressing topics was discussed—which ones to prioritize, and who will facilitate further discussion and action?
- A revised list with ideas that had highest levels of support will be circulated among all who attended the Gathering to solicit input for further actions & initiatives.
- Pastoral Council members will facilitate groups of people who want to pursue further action.
- Issue of racial diversity at Xavier was discussed. Plans for informal meetings with groups of parishioners of color are underway, to discuss ways Xavier can be as welcoming and inclusive as possible for persons of color.
- Discussed possibility of a Xavier booth staffed by Pastoral Council members at upcoming Mission Street Fair, as well as Sixth Ave. street fair this summer.
- Outreach/engagement of young adults was discussed. Consideration of time constraints on young people who are in school, early in career, travel frequently, and how to make them feel welcome and engaged despite time constraints.
- Proposal to invite ministries to informal wine & cheese after Sunday 5 PM masses to invite young parishioners to participate in ministries

4. Middle Collegiate follow-up

- John Karle reported on discussion with minister Rob Stephens, who clarified that their interfaith group is informal and does include a group from a Catholic church, Most Holy Redeemer. Their primary activity is an annual spiritual sounds program which takes place in Jan. Rob also noted they don't participate in the Shared Thanksgiving Meal at Judson Memorial.

5. Review of visit to St. Joseph of the Holy Family

- All who attended the mass on Feb. 25 at 10 AM agreed the music and sense of welcome at St. Joseph were outstanding. Possibility of inviting members of St. Joseph's choir to Xavier was discussed.

6. Planning for further visits (Staten Island; Hillsong; mosque)

- March 18th 10 AM mass at Staten Island Parish—will coordinate a group to make plans for transportation.
- Follow up with Fr. Dan on visit to Brooklyn Mosque, possible fast-breaking dinner during Ramadan?
- Plans discussed for future visits done once a quarter

7. Update on Spiritual Direction Program

- First cohort of 11 people will be commissioned at a mass in June. This increases our capacity for Spiritual Direction at Xavier by 60%. 4 people already interested in joining the next cohort.

- George M. Witt, Executive Director of Office of Ignatian Spirituality, is a fan of the program and extended an invitation for another visit and proposal to request funding a second cohort to begin Jan. 2019. Key part of getting funding depends on attracting members of other Jesuit parishes to join the next cohort, and for their home parish to contribute towards the cost of the program.
- Tuition is \$1800, but will go up. Some fundraising will be required for the next cohort, level of fundraising needed will be determined after meeting with George M. Witt.

8. Discussion of “Welcome Materials”

- The need to update the Xavier welcome brochure was discussed.

9. Donation of Bronze relief to Women Who Stayed

- Proposal to do a presentation of the relief at Mary Magdalene service in July. Jack Schmitt will follow up with Lizzie Berne DeGear from IWTWWS to follow up on details and plans for installation.

10. Closing Prayer – Patrick Egan