

Pastoral Council Meeting

5.25.2023

Holy Trinity Parish Hall

In Attendance: Ann Simonson, Rich Nigro, Mike Nichols, David Connolly, Rich Crane, Sal Giarizzo, Mia Franko

Absent: Ron Zimmerman (HS trustee), Gary McCoy, Precy Clet (secretary), Angela Veeder, Michael Long (council president)

- i. Fr. Matt started the meeting at 6:35 pm with prayer
- ii. Review of Minutes from previous meeting (Thurs, April 20th, 6:30 pm, Church of the Holy Spirit Gym). The minutes were accepted by David Connolly. All in Favor.
- iii. **Review of old business:**
 - a. **Revised Mass Schedule**

Fr. Matt shared an email that was sent to him on May 22nd that requested for the council to review having the 4 pm Mass location rotate between HT and HS once the revised Mass schedule begins in July (note: the name of the senders was erased for privacy sake). The email also pointed out how faith formation classes are only taking place at Church of the Holy Spirit which possibly leads to a decline in overall attendance at the current weekend Masses at Holy Trinity.

The council still agreed that consistency made the most sense for the 4 pm Mass in keeping its location at Holy Spirit. A motion was made to consider having the 8:30 am and 5:30 pm Holy Day Masses at Holy Trinity and the 12:10 pm Holy Day Masses at Holy Spirit as a means to foster continuity and “balance the scales.” Fr. Matt agreed with this.

It was also pointed out that the faith formation classes take place at Holy Spirit because almost all of the Holy Trinity catechists resigned during the summer of 2021 (with the exception of two recently confirmed teens who co-taught an elementary class) after the former coordinator for faith formation for Holy Trinity retired.

The attempts to recruit additional Holy Trinity catechists were not successful. Likewise, the classroom spacing distances necessitated because of COVID protection measures required the use of larger classroom spaces than what was available at Holy Trinity.

It should be noted that three of the HT catechists who resigned are school teachers who needed to decrease their overall workload to offset the burdens that public school COVID teaching created for them.

The revised Mass schedule for the parishes as of July 1st/2nd will be Saturday 4 pm Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Sunday 9 am Mass at Holy Trinity and 11:30 am at Holy Spirit.

On a related note, faith formation for grades K-5 will start at 10:20 am on Sunday mornings to allow Holy Trinity youth to have the option of attending Mass at their home parish if they choose to.

It was acknowledged that yes, some Holy Trinity families have stopped sending their children to faith formation because the classes take place at Holy Spirit.

New Business

iv b (Note: the council's discussion was a little out of the originally intended order)

Office consolidation and related ministry idea

It was proposed to use one of the parish campuses for full-time office space (instead of alternating the use of the offices throughout the week) and the alternate location could be used for an outreach service of sorts (exact type TBD – perhaps an extension of Mother Teresa's Closet).

The reasons for doing this include wanting to provide the administrative staff stability instead of having to bring supplies over from one office to the other throughout the week. Likewise, it could be easier for the parishioners to just remember one office location instead of needing to remember the current alternate day schedule.

Fr. Matt will email the trustees, finance councils, and the pastoral council for additional feedback on how to make an informed decision. Nothing was decided at this particular meeting.

iii. b. Spring Sacraments

The sacraments of first communion and confirmation were celebrated with Masses respectively on Sat, May 6th (Holy Trinity), Sat, May 13th (Holy Spirit), and Tues, May 16th (Auriesville Shrine).

iii c Fun Fest

The most recent fun fest meeting was held on Tuesday, May 23rd at Holy Trinity Church in the parish hall. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11th at 6:30 pm in the Holy Spirit Gym. All systems go so far!

iv. a. Eucharistic Congress

The New York State Eucharistic Congress will be taking place from Oct 20th – 22nd 2023 at the Auriesville Shrine. Attendees are asked to kindly register in advance on the diocesan website (www.rcda.org)

v. **Round Robin**

Sal – Everything is good!

Rich Crane – The 10th anniversary of the Eucharistic Chapel Mass and Dinner is coming up on Sunday, June 4th. Mass will be at 4 pm with dinner following.

David Connolly – Nothing to add at this time

Mike Nichols – Everything's good.

Rich Nigro – Everything's good at the 4 pm Mass so far
(note: Rich is a sacristan at the 4 pm Mass)

Mia Franko – All Good.

Ann Simonson – The basket raffle and donations have been very good for the upcoming breakaway camp (week of June 25th – 30th – Pyramid Life Center in Paradox, NY).

Ann is responsible for all 50 high school candidates from throughout the diocese. There are 30 youth from Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, St Joseph's, and St. Francis.

The Holy Trinity, Holy Spirit, St. Francis, and St. Joseph's combined youth Masses throughout the year have been very successful.

Mia Franko: The combined Youth Masses provide that it is important for programs to have representation from all involved communities so that it does not appear that one program is simply absorbing another (this was a positive comment 😊).

The meeting ended with prayer at approximately 7:45 pm

The next meeting will be offered at the Holy Spirit gym on Thursday, Sept 21st
2023, 6:30 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Fr. Matt Wetsel

(we need some additional back up secretaries!)