



OLPH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

December 14th, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by chairperson, Maureen Landry; the following members were in attendance:

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| Father Jack | Ron Dick | Leta Shannon |
| Linda Karpala | Raylene Yuzyk | Father Raj |
| Maureen Landry | Barb Kamstra | Mary Ann Platz |
| Helen Doyle | Ron Ross | Melissa Damur{guest} |

2. The opening prayer was led by Linda

3. Maureen welcomed Raylene Yuzyk as the pastoral team coordinator

4. Guest Speaker: Melissa Damur, chaplain at ABJ outlined the activities which the students are involved in; they are active in faith formation-Alpha, retreats and religious education courses; Masses are held in the school chapel on a regular basis. Students participated in Catholic Education Sunday, and assisted with the food drive for Sacred Heart Parish. They are planning a potluck for February at ABJ for ESL students and representatives of St. Vincent de Paul. Suggestion was made that we invite students from different schools to the Sunday Masses to encourage parents to attend; this would increase the parish/school connection. We need to increase awareness at OLPH about what ABJ students are doing; also, parishioners need to know the benefits of Catholic Education. Melissa thanked OLPH for their ongoing support.

5. The agenda was amended to add to #10(a) Information: (v) Children's Liturgy

6. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed

7. Faith Discussion: Brief discussion on: You're Cut Off: New rules around the restricted reception of the Precious Blood at Masses in the US could signal changes for other churches; all members feel that we should be able to receive communion under both species, although some opt only for the Body of Christ; it was suggested that parishioners bow in front of the Precious Blood, if they choose not to receive it. Father Jack advised that individual pastors/bishops can make decisions around the reception under both species, but does not anticipate any changes to our current practices. Read: Guidelines for the celebration of the Sacraments with persons and families considering or opting for death by assisted suicide or euthanasia for the January meeting.

8. Pastor's Report: Father Jack advised that Brother Joe has been ordained a Deacon, and will be ordained a priest in the summer; he will preach at some Masses in the new year; we are encouraged to give constructive feedback on those sermons to Father Jack. Deacon Joe is

currently involved in school activities; Brenda is now the Volunteer Coordinator, and the workshops will be done by the Archdiocese.

The Park Pentecostal Church is going ahead with their seniors residence; there will be 150 units; OLPH will have one voice if we wish to have any objections; there will be more meetings in the new year.

9. Standing Reports:

- a) Liturgy Council: Father Jack advised that Dave Schmidt is the new chair of the Liturgy Council; Barb Owens will stay on as a member; the gluten-free host program is going well; the council will look at having 2 ministers go to those parishioners who cannot come to the altar to receive communion.
- b) Finance/Administration: Ron advised that we have met our target for Together We Serve; we are still short in ordinary receipts for the year, but, hope to make up some of the shortfall over Christmas; our sacrificial giving is limited to organizations within Sherwood Park; will set the budget for 2017 in January, and will have the annual report in February. Job descriptions for all staff are being completed.

10. Information, Discussion, and Action:

a) Information:

- i. PPC Meeting for January-will be short meeting, with time for fellowship and snacks after
- ii. Alpha Feedback: Leta advised that over 60 people attended the recent celebration dinner, and there were many moving testimonials; there is a list of people waiting for the next course in September, 2017.
- iii. QuidNovum: Check the website for updates; Mary Ann advised that she checked on a speaker dealing with assisted suicide: Stephanie Gray, a pro-life activist from Vancouver; her cost per session is \$900; it was recommended that Father Jack contact the CWL and/or Knights to see if they would be interested in doing something in this area; they will report back after their January 16th meetings. Do we need a support system dealing with euthanasia? Maybe other churches in the area could share in the cost of bringing in a speaker. This information will be given to Betty Donovan or Pat Lemire in the office for their consideration. Linda attended the film presentation in Wetaskiwin on the Original Image of Divine Mercy; cost of the video is \$1,500-maybe could be a part of OFF; Linda gave information to Robert.
- iv. Catholicism 101-more capacity: Robert will advise at the next meeting
- v. Children's Liturgy: There are larger numbers of kids in this program at the 10:30 Mass; can PPC help? Volunteers should be covered under Called To Protect; Heidi will get back to Leta re assistance.

b) Discussion/Action:

- i. Parish Visioning: The next meeting will be held in January
- ii. Engaging the Philippine Community: Ron Ross advised that he attended a welcoming Mass in new Zealand for members of the Philippine community and wondered if we could do something similar here; maybe we could address their

Holy Days of Obligation; or, invite a Philippine priest for one of our daily Masses? There are 2 organizations: Couples for Christ and Legion of Mary where a lot of Philippine people are involved; Father Jack will pursue this at the deanery level to see what other parishes are doing. We could invite a rep from the couples for Christ organization to come to PPC for information purposes.

- iii. Blanket Exercise: Tabled till January meeting
- iv. Addressing the congregation: Father Jack advised that he will have a draft for the January meeting

11. Parish Formation Activities:

Alpha, RCIA, Alpha for youth, Catholicism 101, Advent Penitential Celebration, Advent Evening of Song and Celebration, Confirmation Retreat, Potluck Dinners, 1st Reconciliation, Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass, Sale of items from the Holy Land-all well-attended

12. What are we hearing from parishioners?

- a) Are we having conversations, asking questions, interested?
- b) Ministry Liaison Reports: Linda advised that the Encore group had their Christmas lunch recently; we can contribute to No Room at the Inn via A Safe Place in Sherwood Park

13. Significant Dates:

- a) Next PPC Executive meeting: Saturday, January 7th at 9AM
- b) Next PPC meeting: Wednesday, January 11th at 7 PM

14. The closing prayer was led by Linda; meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Follow-up Action Items:

- 1. Contact your Ministry Liaisons re any issues for PPC-all members
- 2. Give ideas to Maureen re guest speakers-all members
- 3. Church Etiquette follow-up-Father Jack
- 4. Read Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons and Families Considering or Opting for Death by Assisted Suicide or Euthanasia for the January meeting-all members
- 5. Check to see what other parishes in the Archdiocese are doing for the Philippine community-Father Jack
- 6. Advise Betty and/or Pat about PPC discussion on Euthanasia-Raylene
- 7. Contact Knights and/or CWL to see if they would be interested in doing a session on Euthanasia-Father Jack
- 8. Set up a visioning meeting for January-Robert
- 9. Determine if there is a brochure from EICS that could be put in our lobby-Raylene
- 10. Draft letter to parishioners re the benefits of Catholic Education-Raylene