

Church of the Incarnation

Pastoral Council Minutes

March 13, 2018

Present: Fr. Gregory, Brent Browning, Heidi Brown, Caroline Cook, Jose Cuenca, Frank D'Alessandro, Rich DiMeglio, Jan Ferrance, Carole Hatcher, Jerry Hendrick, Michael Macfarlan, Elaine McGrath, Izzy Menchero, Ed Robinson, Roxana Roblero and Laure Taylor
(Absent: Fr. Jaime, Jose Luis Hernandez)

I. Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

II. Opening Prayer

Heidi opened with prayer and Council read the Vision Statement.

III. Pastor's Report -- Fr. Gregory

• Staff Changes

- Christian Formation Coordinator – Search committee headed by Nancy Brinkac has received eight applications. Of those, five have been invited for interviews. Fr. Gregory says it's "encouraging to have so many possible viable candidates."
- Assistant Youth Pastor John Kronstain has decided to resign effective April 2. We have to consider what this will mean for the 4:30 Sunday Mass.

- Christ Life Program - Churches are losing parishioners at a rate of six for every one gained at Easter so we can't do business as usual. Fr. Gregory attended a breakout session at the recent Mid-Atlantic Congress for Pastoral Leadership on missionary discipleship that he wants Incarnation to be involved in. The program involves three 7-week sessions that focus on Discovering, Following and Sharing Christ. Fr. Gregory is seeking three parishioners to accompany him for the training session in Ellicott, Md., June 20-22. The three would serve as overall coordinator, small group coordinator and hospitality coordinator for the program to be implemented at Incarnation. The Capital Campaign Evangelization fund would be used to help with expenses to attend the training session.

- Annual Bishop's Appeal – Fr. Gregory asked Pastoral Council members to help give the appeal statement at the four masses this upcoming weekend.

IV. Finance Council Update – Ed Robinson

- Fr. Gregory announced that Ed will resign from the Pastoral Council at the end of his regular term in June so he can serve as the chair of the Finance Council.
- The Finance Council is currently working on the budget, due in May.
- Statistics show that we need to grow offertory contributions among the 55-64 age demographics at Incarnation. This group contributes 20% of the church's offertory, compared to those aged 75+, who contribute nearly 24%.
- Diocesan Appeal Targets – Incarnation is among the top 20% of parishes in the Diocese responsible for producing more than half for the Diocesan Appeal goal. Incarnation's target is \$35,470.

V. Incarnation in Action Series – Food Ministry – Frank D’Alessandro

The ministry began in 2009 and currently serves 110 families; an average of 25-30 families per week. The Food Ministry, which has fed 4,931 people in the past year, is a stand-alone operation. The ministry’s annual budget of \$10,000-\$15,000 is funded by parishioner donations. These funds do not come from general revenues. Trader Joe’s contributes meat and fresh produce weekly, and Chandler’s donates fresh bread. Clients are able to collect their food every Sunday at Incarnation beginning at 2:30p.m. out of one of the church’s old classrooms. The market closes at 4:00p.m. Frank said additional people are needed to help with food pickup at the stores.

VI. Chair’s Report -- Caroline Cook

- **Future Visit by the Bishop** – Caroline said the parish needs to think about what we would like to say about ourselves the next time Bishop Knestout comes to visit. What makes our parish unique?
- **Discernment Process** -- Caroline, Rich and Jose met to draft a plan for discernment for our parish, taking into account the “Call to Serve” document of the Diocese. The plan is still a work in progress, but is leaning toward a self-nomination period, question-and-answer session and a discernment evening. Announcements from the ambo seeking nominations will begin after Easter.
- **Carpet Replacement** -- Fr. Gregory would like Pastoral Council to ultimately decide on the choice, under the advisement of a committee. Rich suggested we survey the parish via email asking for input regarding potential carpet/paint selection.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm

Heidi closed with prayer

VIII. Next Meeting Dates

Executive Committee Meeting, 1:15 p.m. on Wed., March 21, at Caroline Cook’s house.
Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, at Incarnation

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Brown, Secretary