

Church of the Incarnation

Pastoral Council Minutes

December 19, 2017

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

I. Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

II. Opening Prayer

Caroline Cook opened with prayer and Council read the Vision Statement.

III. Pastor's Report -- Fr. Gregory

- **Bishop's Visit**

- Fr. Gregory received a call from the Diocese that Bishop-designate Barry Knestout will visit our parish on Tuesday, Jan. 23, for a Mass and reception. Numerous other parishes are being invited to attend (Greene County, Waynesboro, Harrisonburg, Lexington, etc.). We are able to seat 660 people in the Worship Center.
- Fr. Gregory would like a small reception for the con-celebrants prior to Mass. Natasha Lawlor is helping Jenny Kowalski with post-Mass reception plans.
- Ed suggested forming a committee to organize logistics for the visit (i.e. parking, traffic flow, refreshments). Ed and Rich are spearheading the effort.

- **Crozet Catholic Mission** -- Five families have left Incarnation for the new Crozet Mission. Fr. Gregory believes this will be a challenge for the future, as those who are leaving are predominantly young families.

- **New Parishioners** -- Father Gregory sent four "Welcome" letters to new parishioners.

IV. Chair's Report -- Caroline Cook

- **Wednesday Meeting Dates** -- Pastoral Council's survey results have led to us moving our monthly meeting to Wednesday nights beginning in January. The new dates for 2018: **Jan. 10, Feb. 7, March 13, April 4, May 2, June 13.**
- **Culture of Hospitality** -- We as a parish seem to be struggling with this. We have many upcoming parish activities/events -- Jan. 20 Anti-Racism Workshop, Jan. 23 Bishop Visit; January Evening Prayer for Christian Unity, Feb. 15 Deacon Chris' 15th anniversary; May 20 Dynamic Catholic speaker. Caroline said we need to discuss how to handle the many elements involved (promotion, ticketing) and coordinate with Jen Kowalski.
- **Discernment Process** -- Caroline, Rich and Jose Cuenca will reconvene about coming up with a more transparent process for discernment, one that does not solely rely on an appointment from the pastor.

V. Hispanic Action Campaign -- Roxana Roblero

Roxana discussed a campaign that is under way, supported by the Richmond Diocese, to help the Hispanic community feel a sense of belonging at Incarnation. The intention is to encourage our Hispanic brethren to give of their gifts and talents. In many of their home countries, the Diocese provides most of the support for a parish's needs. A subcommittee will meet regularly to educate on stewardship and seek commitments of time, talent and liturgy.

VI. Facilities Audit -- Ed Robinson

Ed said the goal is that we achieve our maintenance and improvement plans to ensure a campus that is safe, comfortable and attractive. The Facilities group is working on a spreadsheet of items the parish will need to address over the next five to seven years and will make this a part of the annual budget.

VII. Parish Evening of Reflection -- Ed Robinson

Pastoral Council agreed to endorse the idea of having a parishwide evening of reflection to continue the work of our Council Retreat. There was discussion about a date for the event in February. Fr. Gregory said we could promote it as a "mini retreat" for those parishioners who don't have time to spend a full weekend on a retreat; a way to help people catch the vision and get them energized. Caroline suggested we reach out to the heads of the ministries to encourage them to attend.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Caroline closed with prayer

IX. Next Meeting Dates

Executive Committee Meeting, 10:30a.m.. on Wed., Jan. 3, at Java Java, Downtown Mall
Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 10, at Incarnation

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Brown, Secretary