**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**

**Transfiguration of Our Lord Mission**

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Fr. Jacob Straub (Administrator) 859-445-2436 Deacon Mike Keller- 859-485-1488 Terri Mounce – 502-663-1997 (07/17)

Diane Webster – 859-802-4790 (07/17) Robin Fremin – 502-732-8677 (07/17) Tim Hendrick – 502-396-0744 (07/17)

Don Wright- 502-514-1033 (06/18) Jim O’Neill- 859-948-9770 (06/17) Tom Buchanan- 502-682-6523 (06/18)

Jeff Fremin- 502-525-6882 (06/19) Kathy Bieger- 502-525-1780 (06/19) Jeanne Shephard- 502-662-2661 (06/19)

Steve Glauber- 502-732-9047 (Alternate)

Minutes

February 7, 2017

**Call to Order:** Robin Fremin 6:37pm

**Members Present:**

Don Wright, Diane Webster, Fr. Jacob Straub, Kathy Bieger, Jeff Fremin, Robin Fremin, Jim O’Neill, Tom Buchanan

**Opening Prayer:** Jeff Fremin

**Review/Approval of Minutes:**

Amended to fix grammatical errors. Don motioned to approve. Jim seconded it. Minutes approved as amended.

**Old Business:**

Carpet replacement in the church is taking longer than expected due to floor tiles coming up with the old carpet. Work will continue into next week. Installers will ensure the church is presentable for weekend Mass.

**Parish Survey:**

Jim has compiled the parish survey result and e-mailed them to all council members. The skew of the survey is that elder members have primarily aesthetic concerns, younger members are just there. Less than 10% of parishioners replied (17 English, 10 Spanish). The English community is an older community. Some of the responses on “what can our parish do better” tell us problems but do not offer suggestions for solutions. Fr. Jacob shared that some of the survey data is substantial but others are aesthetics. A lot of the responses are not necessarily answers but more of a cry for help.

There has to be a next step from these survey results. Many comments concerned the worship experience and there being two distinct congregations.

Separation between Hispanic and Anglo communities

Separate parish councils - Revisit question of if they are ready to be combined. Robin suggested that this be a parish council project -also explore the relationship between the two groups.

Robin suggested that we publish monthly updates of what is being done to bring the two communities together.

Data Review - Look at survey results in conjunction with Discipleship Committee data to determine goals we need to begin working towards. It seems people want to get involved but don't know how.

Father suggested organizing a group involving parish council, discipleship, and a few others to look over all data, see what the main recurring issues are and determine how to best address them.

Outlook for Parish - What will parish look like in ten years? Based on current trajectory, Transfiguration will be closed and St. John will be primarily Hispanic. The Hispanic Community cannot financially support the parish. Older generations have always included the church in their wills; this will not likely happen with the younger population. A large portion of our younger population is Hispanic. Are we willing and ready to address the systemic issues in the parish? If you need to improve then we need to change. Intentional Discipleship is necessary.

Moving forward - Even though the survey sample size was small, it generated a lot of questions. We need more serious and focused discussions, the message gets diluted over generations. Adult formation and education are things to look at also.

Town-hall meeting - Create a group to determine how to facilitate. Father will meet with Terri and Alan to discuss this. If we have a specific focus we may be able to have better attendance. Town hall is postponed until we can get our focus and organize it.

**Committee Report:**

Discipleship Committee has not met yet. Will meet next Thursday and will report next month.

**New business:**

Lenten activities-

March 1st Ash Wednesday Mass

Stations of the Cross - Fridays

Lenten Mission - March 14-15 Father is working on getting a priest to come down and do this.

Seder Supper- Fr. Jacob shared his reservations about this event. Lent is about fasting and penance and we are having a large meal before Lent is even over. he doesn't see it as something that contributes to us as Catholics. Our Seder meal is the eucharist and it confuses the issue rather than helping us with finding our identity. Jeff shared that Fr. Michael did not call it a Seder, rather making it a Holy Thursday meal. Most of the prayers in the text we use come straight from a Seder meal as a Jewish community would have it.  We might not want to write it off but we could change it to adapt to what we believe. Jim shared that he doesn't know that he could explain to someone why were not having the traditional Seder meal this year and suggested that Father write something. Father agreed to this. He also wants to write about other Lenten traditions such as fasting and almsgiving. Kathy shared that she went to a Jewish temple and shared Taht. They did a Seder meal and they told her that they find it offensive. A more muted meal with a video of the Passover or something similar would be a good alternative. We have two parish councils before this meal so we can decide later.

Living Way of the Cross- The Hispanic community has expressed interest in having some Anglos involved.

Convocation of deaneries was supposed to be in January so this was emailed out for discussion with parish councils. It is a disjointed paper - objective 1 is last year, second objective 1 is this year. The big issues are religious education and what we are doing for the young to align their education with our faith. Facilities are also a concern. Jim suggested this so that we all have a chance to review and email jim with comments for him to bring forward

Pastor's Comments

Lent is a time of the year a time to spend on penance fasting and prayer- why don't we look at doing these for the good of our church. we need to pray that we do what is best for the parish even if it isn't what the church wants right now.

Don motioned to adjourn, Jeff seconded - adjourn at 8:07

Closing Prayer - Kathy.

Next meeting: Tuesday March 7 at 6:30 pm