

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
September 7, 2016

Organization Reports

The Parish School of Religion program will begin on September 18. Enrollment is still open. A bit over half of the students who attended last year are signed up and reminder notices will be sent to families whose children are not yet registered.

The program, *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation*, will be used in both the PSR and school this year. This includes a retreat on Saturday, January 28, 2017. The experience rather than the number of service hours will be emphasized: Students will make a commitment to volunteer opportunities and discuss their experiences with teachers and peers as well as submit a one-page reflection on one of their experiences prior to Confirmation.

The next Baptism class is scheduled for September 11.

The Blood Drive is scheduled for September 18.

One hundred eight men are signed up for That Man Is You; this number includes some who have been participating.

The Edge middle school group met several times over the summer, including a pool party, cake baking and decorating for the Parish Festival, and "messy Olympics." The "normal" Edge program will begin on Saturday, September 24. Parents Night Out will begin on September 30. The Youth Alpha course starts September 25 and will run for nine weeks. The Bosco Bash middle school youth rally will be held at St. Timothy Church in February. Seven students from St. Cecilia were among over 100 high school students who participated in Gospel Road in July serving those less fortunate.

The Communications Team met in August and discussed some minor changes to be made in the format of the bulletin. The deadline for material in Issue 3 of *News from the Pews* is November 1. Suggestions for content included a history of the parish, feature articles on parish groups and individuals. The directory proposed by Guide Book Publishing will not be pursued; this could be done in house. About 50 to 60 people signed up for the parish email this year; the chair will look into the percent of parishioners who are on this list. The condition of devices to aid the hearing impaired was brought to the attention of the Communications Team; these devices need to be charged regularly.

An introductory six-weeks course in Walking with Purpose was held during June and July. The response to the program was very positive and affirming. The first full-length program of 22 sessions will begin on September 22 with sessions in both the morning and the evening.

A training and review session for those who take Holy Communion to those who are home bound or in the hospital was held on August 25.

Two new components of the Bereavement Ministry have begun or are about to begin. "St. John's Ministry" will pair a St. John's Minister with a member of a bereaved family to send cards, make calls, pray, etc. for a period of at least one year. The purpose of this ministry is help the grieving person know and feel the support of the parish. Ten parishioners have asked to be involved. A Grief Support program, an eight-week program for those who are grieving to come together to share their grief, struggles, emotions with others who are experiencing the same loss, will begin on September 19.

An information night for anyone interested in participating in the RCIA process was held on August 30. Six people attended and there have been other contacts. The classes will begin on September 29.

An Alpha reunion is scheduled for November 6. This will be a time for reconnecting with those who participated in this program and sharing the difference the Alpha experience has made in their lives.

Progress is being made in getting more parishioners involved in the prison ministry at the Corrections Reception Center in Orient. Those interested have observed a ministry session and paper work is being processed to get them started participating soon. As for the regular work, there have been some challenges this summer, particularly the prison cancelling some sessions to accommodate other programs. The Jail and Prison Ministry Gathering will be held on October 21 at Ss. Simon and Jude Church.

Total funds distributed for SCRIP in the 2016-2017 school year amounted to \$16,767.77. St. Cecilia School, Preschool, PSR, and the parish general fund shared in this along with St. Charles, Bishop Ready, and Cristo Rey High Schools. The total funds distributed includes \$222.42 for Meijer certificates prior to its ending being a part of SCRIP; 14 families had participated on a regular basis. Parishioners will be assisted in signing up for the Kroger Community Awards program after Masses on September 24 and 25.

The West Deanery will meet September 27. Three sessions remain in the Mercy Year speakers program at St. Mary Magdalene; the schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space at St. Cecilia.

The wrap-up meeting on the Parish Festival will be held September 26.

The Athletic Association, including all players and coaches from fall sports, will attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass on September 10. Flag football season is underway with four teams. Season practices for athletes in Grades 6 to 8 Western Irish Cross Country have begun. Western Irish Football season will kick off the week of September 17-18, as will the four volleyball teams for girls in Grades 4 through 8. Sign-ups for K-3 fall soccer are due on September 10 for parishioners entering Kindergarten through Third Grade. The Athletic meeting will be held on September 18. The Athletic Association thanks the Knights of Columbus for repairing the athletic fields after the major damage from rain during the festival.

The names of St. Cecilia parishioners who were interested in the "Reboot Live: Rediscovering the Life God Created for You" have been submitted.

The possibility of a day of fasting and prayer for our country was proposed. The group was in favor of the concept, but further thought is needed, particularly the logistics of time.

The Faith-Life Group is working on several programs. The parish mission, a ministry fair, That Man Is You, Walking with Purpose, the lending library are underway. Ideas on the type and format for young adult gatherings are being explored with a goal of offering something in January. Other programs being considered are sacred scripture sharing, expansion of social justice opportunities, a parish retreat. The Amazing Parish/Divine Renovation Leadership Team is meeting every two weeks, guiding the parish toward the vision laid out over the past year. Continuing education on financial management and the parish's needs is being considered.

Pastor's Comments

Father would like to explore the role of the Pastoral Council – evaluate where we have been and where we want to be as a parish, spending some time in the formation of goals. Kathy Maggied will email some questions to Council members to stimulate this discussion.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 9.**