

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION/ACTIONS
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
November 16, 2016**

Old Business

The Parish Pastoral Council Parish Evaluation was the primary topic of discussion. Five members of the Council had responded to the questions which had been emailed prior to the meeting. These were compiled and distributed. Father introduced the discussion by saying that the purpose of this evaluation is to gather input and reactions which will enable us to form a plan; a further task of the Council will be to revisit the plan to see if we have addressed it successfully. Goals between this and the next meeting of Council include contacting major parish groups (e.g., Finance Committee, School Advisory Board, PreSchool, Facilities Committee, ...) to name representatives on the Council (Fr. Connolly); compile a list of all parish groups (Steve Brezny); give leadership to contacting parish shut-ins with Christmas cards (Patty Bond).

Organization Reports

The following organization reports had been submitted via email; there were no comments or discussion on them at this meeting.

The amount pledged to the Bishop's Annual Appeal by 252 parishioners of St. Cecilia as of November 10 was \$70,050.93, with \$55,553.43 paid; the parish's goal was \$98,621.79.

Seventeen high school students had registered for the Youth Alpha course and 13-15 attended regularly. The group will begin to meet again in January for a series, "Can I Ask That?" as well as to undertake several service projects.

The Edge middle school youth group gathered several times since the start of school. On their annual fall service day they worked on the homes of three parishioners as well as cleaned the grounds around the church property and playgrounds. They have been watching a series of videos in preparation for the Reboot Live! Program at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in March. The Parents Night Out program has 58 students registered this year; in addition there are 25 middle and high school students volunteering to help each month.

St. Cecilia Parish was well represented at the gathering of Diocesan prison ministers and post-release ministers hosted by Sts. Simon and Jude Parish. A new Diocesan initiative was introduced: ARCH (Accompanying Returning Citizens Home), an effort to help with the challenges of finding work and housing post-release. It is hoped that new ministers will start in January.

Format changes on the weekly bulletin have been implemented, including increasing the size of the font. The Advent issue of *News from the Pews* is scheduled to be mailed and sent electronically the weekend of November 19/20. Completion of the new web site design will be one of the key areas of focus by the Communications Team in 2017. The Team encourages all to "like" and "share" St. Cecilia posts to help drive usage of Facebook and Twitter. The IT assessment for the parish has been completed.

The report from the parish's Religious Education Office included updates on the PSR and sacramental preparation programs.

The RCIA process continues to be going well. The Rite of Acceptance/Welcoming will be celebrated the Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. The Grief Support Ministry's first experience has been completed; another session will start in the spring. About 100 people attended the Alpha Reunion on November 6. Alpha will be offered again beginning on January 23 with sessions at

9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Mondays. Four adults from St. Cecilia Parish were confirmed by Bishop Campbell on November 5. Nine children are enrolled in the Completing the Sacraments program, preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Walking with Purpose seems to be going well.

St. Cecilia had a great fall season with over 100 kids involved in either soccer, cross country, volleyball, tackle football, tackle cheer, flag football, or flag cheer. The sixth grade girls volleyball team captured their season-ending championship and the seventh grade volleyball team had an undefeated regular season – 10-0. Over 95 kids from St. Cecilia and neighboring parishes formed four Western Irish teams. Winter basketball signups are completed, with 60 kids playing this season. Pepsi has discontinued use of a trailer for a concession stand so alternatives are being considered, including using a shed, buying a trailer, or seeing if Coke rents them. Proceeds from the adult dance on February 4 and the third annual charity basketball game will be donated to help with cost of repaving the drive and parking areas.

Pastor's Comments

In Father Connolly's written report he said approximately 60 people attended the presentation on the Rite of Christian Funeral and preplanning a Catholic funeral. The All Souls Day Mass went well with a great reception following Mass. The new Rite of Celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony becomes mandatory at the beginning of the new calendar year. On St. Cecilia Day (November 22) there will be a procession and laying of wreath at the St. Cecilia statue following the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Sixty to eighty people have been attending the Novena for the Nation. The entire complex was sealed and repainted. The PTO hosted a Trunk or Treat for students in the preschool, school, and PSR. Average total weekend Mass attendance in October was 880.

Other

Parish Pastoral Council will lead the Novena for the Nation on November 19.

The Council will return to meeting monthly beginning in January 2017.

The Social Committee and a parish staff member will arrange a recognition event for Jackie Mulholland who will retire from the parish staff in January after 28 years of service.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 4, 2017.**