

Parish Life Committee – 9 Nov. 2017

Attendees: Lisa Barnett, Ron Barnett, Janet Brimeyer, Sue Scoles, Sue Sprong, Brian Capesius, Neal Molitor and Rick Brimeyer

Our meeting convened at 8:00 pm with an opening song (Spirit and Grace).

Special Guests:

Neal presented data collected to explore the feasibility of a Catholic high school in Ames. The demographics of the Ames area compares favorably to that of other communities within Iowa that are supporting successful Catholic high schools.

Currently, Neal and Brian are networking with various groups and looking for advice. A spirited discussion entailed, supported by the obvious passion which Neal and Brian possess. Neal offered that, because a high school is a natural community-builder, the presence of a Catholic high school would have positive benefits on the social aspects (i.e., Parish Life) of parishioners.

The following ideas were offered:

- Finding additional passionate members is critical. Due to the length of time necessary for success, the most likely candidates will be parents with very young children. Consider Play Group and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to find potential new partners.
- Iowa City Regina appears to be an excellent organization to benchmark as it shares many similarities with Ames.
- A regional school will almost certainly be necessary, drawing upon Ames, Boone, Gilbert, Nevada and perhaps northern Ankeny.
- Names of potential mentors, experts and supporters were discussed.

Old Business:

Update from Pastoral Council

Ron provided a report from the October Pastoral Council meeting. Topics included the strategic plan, columbarium feasibility study and whether St. Cecilia should purchase an interest in the Ames solar electricity project.

Parish Life Organizations

No changes were noted in leadership among Parish Life organizations. The summary of Parish Life leadership is now available on our webpage.

Parish Life Leadership Social

All members were pleased with the Parish Life Leadership Social held on Oct. 23. Attendance was better than expected. We discussed the actions assigned to our team from the meeting:

Action: All members prepare to brainstorm various ways to promote recruiting efforts for Parish Life organizations at a future meeting.

Action: Rick contact Mary Staniger of the Stewardship committee to determine if there are any plans for an upcoming Time & Talent Survey or Ministry Fair.

New Business:

Clothing Drive

We have been contacted by Tom Budnik from St. Tom's regarding our interest in helping with a clothing drive for the Society of St. Vincent DePaul in Waterloo which is encountering difficult financial challenges per the article in the Oct. 13 edition of The Witness (<https://www.thewitnessonline.org/stewardship/st-vincent-of-waterloo-working-to-meet-challenge-of-helping-poor/>).

The Social Justice Committee already has a full plate for Advent due to the Christmas Market and Giving Tree so we agreed that we will contact Parish Life organizations to see if any are interested in taking this on as a service project.

Action: Rick continue discussion with Tom Budnik to learn more about this opportunity.

Our next meeting scheduled for Wed. Dec. 6 will likely be rescheduled as both Sue Scoles and Sue Sprong are unable to attend.

Action: Janet coordinate with members to determine a new date.

Action: All members bring a handful of Christmas cards to the December meeting.

We ended the meeting with a closing song (Seeds Scattered and Sown) at 8:10 pm.