

Parish Life Committee – 3 Aug 2016

Attendees: Lisa Barnett, Ron Barnett (PC rep), Cheryl Carlile, Jessica Loecke (Welcoming Committee Visitor), Sue Sprong, and Rick Brimeyer

Our meeting convened at 7:05 pm with an opening prayer. We welcomed Ron Barnett as our Pastoral Council liaison and Jessica Loecke as a guest from the Welcoming Committee.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Parish Life Leadership Social

Sue Sprong reserved the Oscar Romero room for Sept. 20. After discussion we agreed to explore Tue. Oct. 11 and Thurs., Oct. 13 instead as Sept. 20 interferes with the Finance Council Meeting which includes potential attendees Cheryl Carlile, Janet Brimeyer and Diana Weber. We also reasoned that October might be a little less hectic for attendees with children.

We agreed to keep the refreshments very simple (e.g., cookies, brownies, lemonade)

Rick shared the latest draft of the agenda and an update was suggested and implemented.

Actions:

- **Sue Sprong** work with the Parish Office to finalize the date and room
- **Sue Scoles** make a final decision on refreshments
- **Rick** finalize the agenda/presentation; we will do a final review at our September meeting
- **Rick** send out an invitation to Parish Life organization leaders as soon as the date is set

Parish Life Organizations

Various updates from Parish Life organizations were reported by members:

- Emily Beaudry is the new Chair of Catholics of Ames Young Adult Community (CAYAC). The former Chair relocated due to a job change. Jenny Lohse is the new Secretary and Lydia Hardie is the Service Coordinator, a new position.
- Melissa Bowker is the new Chair for Play Group. Jessica Loecke is moving on to Welcoming Committee.
- The official name of the social gathering group for veterans in Military Caring Church Coffee

Jessica Loecke provided an update on the Welcoming Committee. She also reported that Play Group is discussing whether they should evolve into an organization for parents with pre-school children since the latter would be more accommodating to working parents.

We discussed that the role of our team is to assist and guide organizations to be successful when there is an identified grassroots effort to form a group. Successful examples include Play Group and CAYAC. We are not responsible for starting the group.

Miscellaneous challenges associated with a seemingly simple concept such as the Meals Ministry were briefly discussed when the recipient family is located several miles from the providers or when the recipient family has special dietary needs.

Parish Life Initiatives

Cheryl suggested a potential Hispanic parishioner for our committee. Rick knows her and will approach her to determine her interest.

Website

We reviewed the updated webpage for Parish Life which Janet completed. We also showed the links between the "Organizations & Activities" under the Parish webpage which links to our respective groups. Reaction was very positive.

Team members and Parish Life committee leaders are encouraged to work directly with Janet as updates are required.

New Business:

Parish Survey Results

While reviewing the parish website, Rick also shared the results of the recent survey. He also shared comments received from the survey pertinent to Parish Life. These generally involved people looking for groups to fit their needs. In some cases the groups didn't exist but in others they did and the parishioners apparently were not aware of them.

Dashboard

Rick shared the latest update to the Parish Dashboard. Most encouraging is the fact that the number of registered parishioners is up for the first time in years. This may be a result of the Welcome Sundays.

Utilizing Volunteers

We received feedback, both from the survey and from an individual that not all people who volunteer are contacted. We will discuss the importance of inclusiveness at the Parish Life Leadership Social and coach Parish Life organizational leaders appropriately.

Jessica mentioned that Play Group has never received a call in two years as a result of a newly registered family expressing interest via the Time & Talent survey which is included in the registration packet. We agreed that seemed odd. **Action: Rick** discuss the current process with the Parish Office.

Parish Life Succession Planning

Rick reminded the group of the succession planning model that we are recommending for Parish Life organizations. It also makes sense for us to follow that model. Rick stated that he is willing to serve as leader through June 30, 2017 and then stay on for another year to support the new leader.

Rick's recommendation is that the Chair be responsible for planning the meetings and guiding the team and does not have liaison responsibilities with Parish Life organizations. The Chair would have to attend 1-2 Pastoral Council meetings per year for a 10-minute update on Parish Life Initiatives.

Action: All team members prayerfully consider serving as Vice Chair with the intent of becoming the Chair on July 1, 2017 for a two-year term.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 3 at 7:00 pm at the Brimeyer house (2615 Southridge Circle). This meeting will primarily be focused on final arrangements for the Parish Life Leadership Social.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 8:10 pm.