

All Saints Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
October 23, 2019 7:00 PM

1. Opening Prayer – Aaron Skretting
2. Acceptance of Agenda: Motion that the agenda be accepted as presented. Moved by Richard Shelson, Seconded by Shelley Thom. Carried.
3. Acceptance of minutes of the September 18, 2019 Parish Pastoral Council minutes: Motion that the minutes of September 18, 2019 meeting be accepted as presented. Moved by John Cicman, Seconded by Lois Cicman. Carried.
4. Pastor's Report – Fr. Kevin
 - a) Some good news from our last meeting is that the deficit in our budget is now down to \$3000 as of the end of September!
 - b) The elevator at St. Basil's is not working and needs repairs which, by law, we need to complete so we have a working elevator. There is no timeline for completion of the repairs at this point.
 - c) There is a leak in St. Patrick's that seems to be coming from an interior drain pipe. Roofers are coming on Friday to check this out.
 - d) The September snow storm has cost us many of our trees at all 3 churches: 9 trees at Assumption, 5 trees at St. Patrick's and 3 trees at St. Basil's including the big elm tree on the boulevard outside the rectory door which has cracked the length of the trunk and is falling over. The 2 elm trees along the canopy must come down as they are pushing on the canopy and are also rotted and will fall. The quote so far is \$3000/tree which includes \$1000 due to blocking the street – we will seek other quotes. We are also watching the birch tree on the west side of Assumption as it is getting old.
 - e) Many thanks to the volunteers who put in over six hundred hours to clean and paint in the rectory at St. Patrick's. It was in need!
 - f) The Bishop's Dinner was a great success! The Bishop was very impressed and pleased with this first southern Alberta dinner! Tickets were sold out and many people who waited until the last minute were disappointed that they couldn't get tickets. Bishop McGratten was also impressed by the respect and honor shown to the Indigenous Peoples. The White Buffalo Singers, an all-female student drumming group from St. Francis Junior High performed wonderfully – they will be doing some work with CBC later this fall! There was a one hundred fifty student choir from Holy Spirit schools who sang beautifully. The teachers are already talking about preparing for the next Dinner in 2 years. The students commented that they really enjoyed being at the Dinner and performing. The MC was Michael Chaisson from Calgary who has done some youth programs and retreats in Lethbridge. He also was very impressed with the Dinner. The Bishop was one of the last people to leave that evening!

Fr. Kevin noted that there is always a break-even point for any event like the Bishop's Dinner – the point when enough tickets are sold to cover the costs and those sold after that will be profit. There have already been 4 events cancelled this year because not enough tickets were sold to reach that break-even point. This is why it is so difficult when people wait until the last minute to buy tickets!

Many thanks to all involved in the planning and executing of the Bishop's Dinner! The decorating was fantastic and the looked amazing!

g) A discussion was held regarding the immigration status of many of the non-Canadian priests in our Diocese.

h) There will be a Mass for All Soul's Day on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 10:00 AM at Assumption.

i) So far there has only been 1 application for the Parish Pastoral Council positions that are open and 4 more people are needed! Please contact Fr. Kevin for more information on what is involved and if you are interested in one of these positions.

5. Old Business

a) Aaron noted that most of the members of the Parish Pastoral Council have completed their terms and should be going off. He feels that there are 3 aspects to PPC:

- i) Business/Governance
- ii) Learning/Faith Formation
- iii) Social Justice/Living Faith Openly

We have done the first 2 areas at our meetings but we need to extend our role to the third area, that of ACTION! How do we help our parish to see and understand their role in taking action on Social Issues? We are seeing and talking about more incidents happening in our city and our parish and how do we respond beyond just going to PPC meetings? How do we extend our learning to become Catholic voices in our city and world?

Aaron asked that each of us ponder these questions and bring ideas back to the next PPC meeting in November so that we can discuss and try to form an action-based plan.

6. New Business

a) Alice Matisz spoke to the group about the parish website. It was started when Fr. Wilbert was our Associate Pastor but has grown since then. There is a lot of information on the site for our parish, the Diocese of Calgary, the Vatican, etc. As well, there are stories written on a variety of topics by people in our parish. The website team is always looking for stories and story ideas. If you like to write they are grateful for your stories. If you are not a writer but have an idea maybe one of our team writers could help you to get it on paper! As well, the team is looking for ideas for the website in general. In the discussion that followed, it was felt that the website needed to be far more current and updates needed to be done more regularly so that people would want to keep coming back. In a 'straw poll' that Alice conducted 15 people said they visited the website at least 1 – 2 times per month, 10 people said they visited in the last 6 months and 7 said they had never visited – 3 of these

people do not have a computer. Twenty-eight people said they visited sites with Christian content regularly.

7. Pastoral Council Activity

Fr. Kevin began by asking how many people had attended Mass at a church outside Alberta over the summer. He asked if they knew the hymns that were sung at the Mass. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is set to release a new Canadian Catholic hymnal, Music In Catholic Worship, at the beginning of Lent 2020. The aim is to have a common repertoire of Catholic music for liturgy right across Canada. Presently, the western parts of Canada tend to Breaking Bread while the eastern areas use CBW III.

Most people in the church don't know hymns outside of the usual ones they hear and won't sing new hymns they don't know. We can't sing with one voice if we don't share a repertoire. Music is a simple metaphor for the problem in the church, for the fact that everyone has their own agenda. Do we come to Sunday Mass for our self or for the building of the Kingdom? Weekday Mass is for personal piety but Sunday Mass is for the community, for the building of the Kingdom. Are we putting into the Mass what we are 'getting out of it', ie: the Eucharist? Is attending Mass just a ritual? Look at how quickly the church empties after Mass! Do we understand the importance of unity for building the Kingdom? Remember it is not about ME! Unity must come from the grassroots – it is not top down! What are our priorities? It is important that we focus not on how we got here but on how we move forward, how do we improve! We need to celebrate those things we do well such as our commitment to the Soup Kitchen and the fact that our Interfaith Food Baskets always receive donations. If we can have pancake breakfasts however, why can't we put another team at the Soup Kitchen? The Bishop asked why we were raising money for the Food Banks at the Bishop's Dinner. It is because our Food Banks are always busy, always in need! There are always people needing our help. Our parish needs to be constantly working on being MORE welcoming, MORE friendly, MORE charitable, to recognize that the other person is struggling. WE need to build the kingdom of God at every occasion! How do we learn to love one another as Christ has loved us? How do we spread the Word for the good of the Kingdom and one another?

8. **Next meeting is Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Assumption Hall.**
November 20 is Red Wednesday in support of all the Christians who have been killed for their faith. Consider wearing RED to our meeting to show support.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.