



Fr. Kevin Liebhardt, Pastor
Charles Hunt, Director of
Religious Education*
Beth Rossetti, Pastoral
Minister
Tim Shell, Deacon
David Howell

Leslie Simpson
Carlos Hidalgo
Benjamin Russo
Dave Rossetti*
Bernie Borowski
Diane Goss
*excused

**ST. JUSTIN MARTYR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday March 15, 2016**

PRAYER/FAITH SHARING: Apostles Creed and Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 3: 8-14.

Minutes: The minutes were approved by email, there were no additional changes.

DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS:

- **Mission Statement**

Council discussed whether to change the Parish Mission Statement to make it more in line with the motto “We Follow Jesus in Faith, Prayer and Service.” There was a thoughtful discussion and at the end the Mission Statement was changed to: *“We are the Catholic Parish of St. Justin Martyr, a Eucharistic Community. We give generously of our time, talent and resources for the life of our Parish. We seek to deepen our spirituality to better embody our faith in Christ, to work diligently to serve others and to strengthen the Community of St Justin Martyr.”*

- **New Parish Logo**

This will be discussed at the April meeting.

- **2016 Lenten Mission Evaluation**

Council members received copies of the evaluation prior to the meeting. 109 written evaluations were received. Leslie Simpson summarized the evaluations, which were overall excellent. One suggestion to improve was a clearer description of the significance of the symbols for each day. Council members helped to edit the summary of the evaluation. Fr. Karls has asked for a copy. Leslie will see that he receives one.

- **Refurbishing the Church**

In Dave Rossetti’s absence Leslie Simpson shared an email in which she received an update from Dave. It is as follows: The group has discussed our proposed “wish list” with two Diocesan approved service providers to understand what each can and can’t do. Each is providing a non-binding, informal free estimate that we can use in budget planning. Based on the estimated costs we will finalize our strategy forward and discuss with the Diocese.

- **Stewardship Committee**

Please see Pastoral Minister’s report.

- **Council concerns – Calling forth new members.**

Council members discussed their terms and the need for new members. Current terms expire in June. Several members have completed their terms and will not be returning. Council will need a minimum of three new members to replace them. This coming weekend Council Members will speak at Masses, and an article will be in the bulletin. Articles will continue until May. Members volunteered for the Mass they planned to attend.

- **Parish Concerns**

Council discussed Fr. Kevin's request for input in forming a relationship with Fr. Alex's parish, St. Ignatius of Loyola and with Fr. Diago's organization, REAP (Reach Education Action Program). He received an email describing some of the materials we could help with which are:

1. Resource materials in the form of books, DVDs, magazines for RCIA, Sunday School, pre-Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage preparation, counseling for marriage problems, etc.
2. Subscription for magazines, e.g., "America", "The Way", "Review for Religious", etc.
3. Mission exposure Program in urban and rural India.
4. Sharing of events, activities, best practices e.g., for youth, married couples, children, women, etc.
5. Homiletic resources.

Fr. Kevin has not yet heard from Fr. Diago, but expects that he will have plenty of ideas. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Fr. Kevin mentioned that Fr. Alex has been having serious back pain and is supposed to be resting and doing only the exercises his doctor recommends. Fr. Kevin asked for prayers for Fr. Alex.

UPDATES & REPORTING:

Religious Education: Charles Hunt

RCIA

The parish celebrated RCIA Scrutinies with Damon Coberly over the past three Sundays of Lent. Fr. Kevin and Deacon Tim led these beautiful rituals calling Damon Coberly, as well as the entire parish, to further repentance, readying us for Easter. Damon, along with Henry Wilson, will be participating in a Palm Sunday retreat on March 20. The RCIA Team offers a wonderful afternoon of prayer and reflection in order to prepare candidates for full initiation on the Easter Vigil.

PSR

Classes continue to go well. The students are generously contributing to the annual mission drive during Lent.

Sacramental Preparation

Parents of First Communion candidates participated in a parent information meeting Monday the 14th. The meeting addressed the practical concerns regarding preparing for the Jesus Day Retreat and First Holy Communion Day. The parents also watched a DVD about the Mass, with the hopes that they in turn will share what they learned with their children.

Year of Mercy

The book discussion group gathered February 26, March 4 & 11 to reflect on Pope Francis' book The Church of Mercy: A Vision for the Church. The participants enjoyed the book and found affirmation in realizing that our parish is answering Pope Francis' call to be 'Apostles of Mercy' in many ways. But of course, we always have a long way to go! The group also watched a recently released movie entitled Little Boy which involves how to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy. Great Movie! Have Kleenex handy.

Worship Commission: Fr. Kevin

The Worship Commission met on March 8. They prepared for Holy Week.

Finance Council: Fr. Kevin

The Finance Council met March 10 and reviewed the budget. Offertory collections are down slightly from last year. We are on budget.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY AND PASTORAL MINISTER'S REPORT- Beth Rossetti, Pastoral Minister **Confirmation 2016**

- March 6 session was our service session making Easter Baskets for Holy Redeemer and West Side Catholic Center with candidates and sponsors. 47 baskets were made.
- April 17 from 6:00-8:30 is our next session.

Fresh Faith 2016

- March 13 session Lenten Retreat was cancelled due Beth Rossetti being sick.
- April 17 session is a tour of the Center for Pastoral Leadership with both teens and adults.

Pop and Praise

- Our last session was on February 22. We had a service day and made tie knot blankets for Rainbow Hospital critically ill children and a pizza dinner. We had 22 teens and we posted pictures on social media.
- Living Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Good Friday March 25 at 8:00PM. Thank you to Diane Goss and Kim Naderer directing our teens.
- XLT session on April 28 will be our next session.
- A new twitter page was set up for the high school teens. @SJM_Teen

General

- Stewardship Commission
 1. Theresa Safigan has been running articles in the bulletin about various ministries in the parish in order to introduce people to everything we have to offer before the ministry fair.

2. Ministry fair workshops are happening to complete ministry boards. Ministry leaders have been notified of the dates. A full day of cutting and pasting is planned for April 13.
3. Theme for the ministry fair which will take place on June 4-5, 2016: **Do Small Things With God's Gifts**

- February 24 5:00PM-8:00PM An Evening of Confession throughout the Diocese. Was successful, we had a steady flow of people throughout the night.
- Palm Weaving will be tomorrow Wednesday, March 16 from 1:00-4:00PM and Thursday, March 17 from 7:00-9:00PM.
- The Fellowship Meal is scheduled for Holy Thursday, April 24 at 6:00; dinner is served at 6:30PM. Everything is going well. As of now we have 44 people signed up.

Deacon's Report:

Church in the City. Participated in Cluster Mass with Holy Redeemer. The Mass on February 22 was held on the Monday preceding the Diocesan Day of Confession.

Tim Shell reported that Marriage Enrichment was held on Saturday, March 5, 2016 in Lambur Hall. Thirty couples registered for the event, with one no-show. Justin Martyr, St. Mary Magdalene, Holy Redeemer, St Rocco's, Our Lady of the Lake parishes and a Baptist church were represented. Evaluations of the event stated that many of the couples liked the time spent together. The food and environment were well done.

The Facebook page has 382 "likes." This is up from the 374 likes in January. Facebook posts for the past month were less frequent, but were seen by more people. It would seem that the content was more relevant to the viewers.

The Twitter account stayed at 50 followers with no net gain in followers since January. The average tweet has about 45 to 50 impressions.

Instagram grown from 22 to 25 followers. As an image driven media this was used to communicate photos from the mission and Lent in general.

The next meeting is Tuesday April 19, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

Submitted by: Therese Ryan, Recording Secretary