

Our Lady of Lourdes + St. Anne Pastoral Council

April 20, 2023

6:30 to 8:00 PM

St. Anne Social Hall

In attendance: Doug Doyle, Karen Gerew, Joe Haefner, Terri Kwiatkowski, Alana Nuth, Tom Walsh, Deacon Bill Rabjohn, and Father Tyman

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Celebration of Father Lawlor for the 60th anniversary of his ordination as priest in June
 - a. Father Tyman has prepared an advertisement for the Catholic Courier to acknowledge Father Lawlor's 60th anniversary.
 - b. Plans for the reception at St. Anne on June 4 are well underway. Members of the parish will be assisting and serving food.
 - c. The coffee hour after Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes needs someone to lead and organize. Volunteers are needed to help, including contributing baked goods.
 - i. Terri Kwiatkowski can lead the coffee hour with support from Tom and Maryanne Walsh
 - d. The music director, Kristin McGinnis, at Our Lady of Lourdes will be checking with Father Lawlor to ask if he would like any specific hymns sung during Mass.
 - e. The planning team will estimate for 250 attendees. Solicitations for desserts and baked goods, for both the coffee hour and reception, will have to be coordinated.
 - f. Invitations are being sent to people who are not current members of the cluster, including the names on Sister Joan's list.
 - g. Father Tyman will ask Father Lawlor if he has a recommended charity for anyone who wishes to give a gift.
3. Continued discussion on filling the upcoming vacancies on the Pastoral Council
 - a. Five upcoming vacancies: two for Our Lady of Lourdes and three for St. Anne.
 - b. Doug Doyle is the incoming chair.
 - c. The incoming Secretary is not yet selected.
 - d. Joe Haefner is willing to serve another term, which means there is one fewer vacancy (St. Anne).
 - e. Tom Walsh is willing to serve another term if no one steps forward to fill his position.
 - f. The Council discussed recruiting a current Seton School parent and/or parent whose child is enrolled at Faith Formation. Perhaps offering the parent an option of serving a one-year term as a member-at-large rather than asking the parent to

commit to the full three-year term. The current Council also lacks diversity and it would be beneficial to include a new member with a diverse background.

4. Strategies to create a greater feeling of community across both churches with the idea of moving towards a single parish with two churches rather than a single cluster
 - a. Currently, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Anne are two separate corporations. The churches maintain three budgets: Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Anne, and Seton School. Funds are frequently transferred across the budget to accommodate shared staff and shared services. Mary Kase in the Business Office handles the fund transfers.
 - b. In addition to the fund transfers, challenges exist in maintaining two parish offices. Frequently, there are delays because a given task requires traveling to the other church.
 - c. With clergy rotating between Masses at both churches, it also weakens relationships between priest and parishioners. Depending on which Mass(es) a parishioner attends and the schedule of which Mass the priest serves, weeks or longer could pass before the priest sees a given parishioner.
 - d. The Council is interested in building a great sense of community between the two churches and moving towards an identity as a single parish with two churches rather than a cluster with two parishes and two churches. Some of this sense of identity has begun in result to the changed Mass schedule as parishioners attend Mass at both churches.
 - e. In addition to the sense of community, the Council is also interested in increasing engagement and participation of parishioners.
 - f. The Council discussed presenting the cluster finances as a single cluster budget in the bulletin and in the annual CMA campaign. Presenting the budget as one instead of three budgets may offset some of the concerns about one church contributing more than another.
 - g. Merging the two churches into a single corporation would have to wait until after the Chapter 11 settlement case has closed.
 - h. When merged into a single parish, the cluster would have a new name. The name is selected by the Bishop. The parish can put forward recommendations. "Our Lady and St. Anne" is one such recommendation.
 - i.
5. Status of weekly contributions now that both churches have resumed collections during Mass

- a. Please see attachments as well as this note from Mary Kase, Finance Director:

Attendance improved for the 3rd quarter for both OL and SA:

OL – decline was reduced from 6.7% decline for Q1-Q2 to 5.9% for Q1-Q3.

SA – decline was reduced from 22.6% decline for Q1-Q2 to 17.3% for Q1-Q3.

- b. Attendance declined but not as severely as once thought. This decline could be contributed to the trend of declining Mass attendance felt by many churches in the Diocese.
- c. It's too early to make an assessment of the weekly contributions.

6. Closing Prayer