

St Augustine Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
St Mary's Rectory
November 17, 2019

Present: Fr Cliff Auth, Fred Furtek, Robin Grabowski, Lucretia Hudzinski, David Klementowski, Deb Krisher, Marilyn Powell, Mary Frances Sabin, Lynn Shepard Scott, Chris Vander Voort, Matt Willams and Anne Domanico.

Excused: John Pedrotti, Deborah Starczewski

Opening Prayer: Anne Domanico read the poem "Remember" by Joy Harjo; Fr Cliff led an opening prayer to guide us through this special meeting.

Welcome: Fr Cliff and Anne explained why the Pastoral Council was asked to come together prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. Fr Cliff, Anne and Deb Krisher met after the last PC meeting to discuss church leadership and clarify how Fr Cliff sees his role in the Parish. Fr Cliff sees his style as collaborative rather than authoritative. He also has some ideas on where he would like to see St Augustine's in the future. Based on their conversation, it was decided to call a special meeting of the Pastoral Council so that Fr Cliff could explain his thoughts and ideas for future parish life before the next Council meeting.

Finances: Fr Cliff explained that St Augustine's and St Mary's have been linked for nearly three years and this is the longest period of time that the parishes have been linked together. St Augustine's is doing well financially, operating in the black, and continues to make capital improvements. We even made our Hope Appeal assessment, whereas some other parishes are struggling to meet their goals. However, we must still prepare for the eventuality that attendance will continue to decline, due to a variety of reasons. For example, next year each parish is going to lose one weekend Mass and attendance is expected to drop. We need to create activities that make our parish a more viable and visible part of the community in ways that are not necessarily perceived as "Church." **Matt Williams** agreed to research why people join churches.

Staffing: Fr Cliff lauded our Youth Ministry team as a model for developing a cooperating program between both St Augustine and St Mary's parishes. This year both parishes have adopted a new Faith Formation program, which is more topical and activity focused, as opposed to a traditional class room, catechetical format. Both programs have modified to meet the needs of their particular parish and are doing well. Some parents were surveyed and they said that they are seeking hands-on service projects that they can do with their children. Fr Cliff said next year the plan is

to hire one Faith Formation Director for both parishes. Regina Wright was recently hired as Faith Formation Coordinator for Grades 1 - 5 for St Augustine's.

Possible Future Marketable Ideas:

1. Idea to develop a community garden on the land behind the Rectory and Parish Hall.
Fr Cliff will reach out to Dave Babcock who has some ideas about that. Fr Cliff will then contact **Matt Williams**, who offered to assist in researching this idea.
2. Idea to explore other options for utilizing our campus for community-based programs. **Lucretia Hudzinski** volunteered to research the possibilities.
3. Idea to engage in small group conversations with parishioners in terms of what they are looking to get out of the St Augustine's experience. These conversations can occur in people's homes, local community spaces, maybe at church. This task appears to be unassigned.

Crises in Church Leadership Committee: A letter was drafted by the committee voicing concerns over the crises in Church leadership, due to the sexual abuse scandal, and making recommendations for some changes on hiring practices at the diocesan level. This letter was composed while Bishop Cunningham was still in office (and has since retired) and was last reviewed by Fr Tom Servatius. **Lynn Shepard Scott** and **David Klementowski** agreed to review the revised letter and forward the process with the Crises in Leadership Committee.

Discernment of Pastoral Council Officers for 2019 - 2020:

Chair - **Lynn Shepard Scott**

Vice Chair - **Robin Grabowski**

Secretary - **Matt Williams & Anne Domanico**

Respectfully submitted 11.26.19 - Agd.