



*St. John the Evangelist  
Parish Pastoral Council Minutes  
Monday, October 12, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.*

*Quorum – Two-thirds of the Parish Council voting Membership was present.*

**Members Present:**

Msgr. Michael Becker	Mark Krepich	Cecelia Bloom	Cynthia Karcher
Heather Nackley	Diane Turcovsky	Patrick Podoletz	Christopher Palazzi
Mary Haenig			

**Members Absent:**

Ed Ergler	Debbie Ergler	Vanessa Donouge	Paul Davis
Rev. Mr. Gene Neral	Tabatha Griffin	Heather Yasolsky	

1. **Prayer & Opening** – All members prayed the prayer for St. Johns' Parish Pastoral Council.
2. **Approval of minutes from last meeting** – Patrick Podoletz moved to accept as printed, seconded by Cynthia Karcher, all voted to accept.
3. **New Business:**
  - a) **Stephen Ministry overview** – Cecelia Bloom presented an overview of the Stephen Ministry goals and process – being a listening friend to persons in a transitional need – for example, loss of family, job, or economic hardship. There are over 10,000 persons engaged in this ministry across the country representing more than 150 religious denominations. It is not a hospice or financial assistance program. It is providing social and spiritual comfort and encouragement to the care receivers. There is a very extensive training program for both the leaders and care providers. Some suggestions were made to assist with furthering this ministry in our parish including inserting some more information in the bulletin and inviting Bill and Norma Foose, our Stephen Ministry parish leaders, to speak at Sunday Masses periodically.
  - b) **Social Committee Survey** – Mark asked if any results had been compiled. The social committee is still evaluating the survey.
  - c) **Election of Council Vice-President** – Mark explained that we need to elect a vice-president who would eventually succeed to the presidency after his term expires in two years. All members were asked to consider serving. Election was scheduled for the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - d) **Personnel** – In light of the recent announcement regarding the school consolidation and regionalization, Brittany Miller has left to take a job with the Hollidaysburg Area School District and Heather Reimer, our business manager, has taken a full time job with the Altoona Area School District as a food service manager. She expects to continue part-time as our business manager.
  - e) **Script** – With the closure of our parish school there is some discussion about how to manage the script program. It has been an excellent source of additional revenue for the school but it does require a lot of detailed oversight and record keeping. Some suggestions have been considered to reduce the number of script providers (stores) to make it easier to handle. The finance council will be involved with these decisions and will provide guidance for its continuation.
4. **Old Business** – None

5. **Committee Reports:**

- a) **Religious Education** – Mary H. noted that each week the parents are present at the end of the religious program to pray together and pick up their children. Although this is a new practice most parents are attending the prayer gathering.

**School** – The school year continues to go well in spite of impending closure and consolidation.

- b) **Family Life** – See detailed report appended to these minutes from Heather Nackley
- c) **Finance** – No meeting since last parish council meeting. Next Finance Council meeting will be October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- d) **Haiti** – A sea container with items for the parish and bookbags was shipped to our sister parish. The Haiti committee is considering offering to run the script program if it is possible to use the proceeds to assist our sister parish and school.
- e) **Liturgy** – No meeting since last parish council meeting. Next meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- f) **Maintenance** – No report
- g) **Social** – The committee has chosen Sunday, August 21, 2016 at Legion Park with a Back-to-school theme for next year's parish picnic. Ginny Reader is reviewing the survey response.
- h) **Discipleship** – No report
- i) **Youth Group** – Jennifer Helsley and Mary Susick, her mother, were present to talk about some of the ideas that are being considered and developed to get more involvement from our youth. These include family movie nights in the gym and hosting a spaghetti dinner for our parishioners. These are in conjunction with the religious education program and school. The youth will be sending Christmas cards to elderly residents at Garvey Manor and our parish. The youth group committee and religious education groups will prepare an outline for the next meeting of other events they want to sponsor to involve our parish youth members.
- j) **Samaritan** – No report
- k) **Adult Education** – Monsignor is being a new series of videos on religion in American history for Sunday morning adult education. We are considering what programs and services would support the Year of Mercy jubilee proclaimed by Pope Francis and beginning on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Looking at ideas from our diocese and from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

St. John's will be hosting a panel discussion chaired by Bishop Bartchak on *Si Laudato*, the pope's recent encyclical on the care of the environment on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

6. **Date for next meeting** – Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

7. **Adjournment** – Patrick Podoletz moved to adjourn, seconded by Diane Turcovsky. All in favor.



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**Family Life Report 10/12/2015**

**World Meeting of Families** – International event 9/22-Friday 9/25. Festival of Families Saturday 9/26, where The pope spoke candidly about the importance of family before an enormous in Philadelphia.

"The family is beautiful, but there's effort involved and there are problems," the pope said.

Six families from various continents were among the speakers. They shared their hopes, dreams and fears on stage as the pontiff listened attentively. The families were from Australia, Ukraine, Jordan, Nigeria, the United States and Argentina.

At the end of the festival, the pontiff, going off script from his prepared remarks, highlighted the importance of families. "All the love and beauty God has in himself, he gives it to the family," the pope said.

Pope Francis added, "God sent Him [Jesus] amid a family. He could do this because it was a family with a truly open heart."

"You know what [God] likes most? To knock on the doors of families and to find the families who love each other, families who bring up their children to grow and help move forward to create, develop a society of truth, goodness and beauty," he added.

The pope even joked about family life not being easy and that he knows about the problems they face -- despite being a single man.

"Families have the difficulties, families fight, sometimes plates can fly. Children bring headaches. I won't speak about mother-in-laws," he said. "With families, there is always light. ... The family is like a factory of hope, a factory of Resurrection."

The pope celebrated mass on Sunday 9/27/15 which ended the meeting.

**Synod of Bishops on the Family** at the Vatican: 10/4-10/25. The Bishops are addressing the challenges that are facing families today. The theme is: "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Modern World".

Topics discussed last week were disunity in the church, mercy, and a reinstatement of what the Pope said when he visited the US. "God entrusted his loving plan for creation to the family".

**Diocese**

- 10/18/15 World Mission Sunday – families are called to pray for and support missionaries financially, because "...we are called to be missionary disciples at home".
- The Family Fully Alive Workshop – Saturday 10/17/15. Highlights the World Meeting of Families and Pope's visit to Philadelphia last month. Slide show of diocesan pilgrimage to Philadelphia and ideas will be given on how to bring the "Faith Fully Alive" to families in our diocese. (Amy Kanich at Family Life Office, AJ Diocese).
- 2016 Catholic Family Calendar – available from diocese \$3, \$2 postage.