

St. Rita Pastoral Council
Sept 18, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present

Fr. Tom Helfrich	Patty Strait	Joan Gaughan	Bernadette Frost
Deacon Chris Vida	Donna Ludlow	Ted Ludlow	Tiffany Scott
Jan Strait (chair)	Bob Maladecki	Gary Grueneberg	Shari Lupp
Josephine Hones (secretary)			

Absent Council Members

Elaine Hassett, Doug Leu

A. Opening Prayer

Josie shared the opening prayer about the Harvest Moon.

B. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted.

C. Approval of Minutes for the Previous Meeting

The August 14, 2018 minutes were approved with revisions. Changes will be made and sent to Jeannie and Jennifer for filing and posting to the St. Rita website.

D. Continuing Formation for Council Members

Fr. Tom asks us "Why is the diocese gathering in Lansing on this upcoming Saturday?" He explained that this is phase 3 of the goal of evangelization. Phase 1 offered the "Arise" program; Phase 2 advertised the "Welcome Home" theme. Phase 3 is called the "Court of the Gentiles". We shared in groups about our own experiences of evangelization.

E. Old/Unfinished Business

- Jan has finalizing the usher's handbook. He and Fr. Tom will meet and discuss it prior to calling an official usher's meeting and presenting it.
- Fr. Tom will meet with Ann and Sue to discuss the parish welcoming activities. It was mentioned that these ladies have a very heavy work load and need help or the welcoming process needs to be revised. Fr. Tom will discuss this concern with them.
- The new pastoral council members had an orientation meeting. Ted Ludlow accepted the role of Vice Chair for this council.

F. New Business

Gary asked whether the parish is using the VIRTUS program. VIRTUS is an 'online training/tracking platform - protecting God's children for Adults - touching safety program for children – protecting all children – for adult pathways – for religious orders – critical conversations". Yes, St. Rita Parish uses the VIRTUS program.

G. Strategic Goal Updates

There was a discussion about whether this council should be focusing on the established GOALS is the best use of the pastoral council time. Is there need for a parish survey to re-examine and possibly re-establish new goals? A time/talent study was mentioned. It was agreed that it is important to get parishioners involved with the many parish groups. All groups should be invited to participate in the upcoming stewardship fair.

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Goal 1. Youth

Bernadette will be the liaison reporting Youth activities. She will keep in contact with Leslee Hartford, our parish youth director, and give reports to the council.

Goal 4. Evangelization

Bob Maladecki stated interest as being the leader for this goal.

Ted Ludlow reported that plans have been made to secure a Dynamic Catholic Speaker for Saturday, March 16, 2019 from 9am – 1pm. The Dynamic Catholic Organization will help in planning and publicity for this event. A nominal fee will be charged in advance. Also, the St. Patrick's Day dinner will be after Mass on that evening.

Goal 5. Catholic Social Teaching – Joan Gaughan, Leader

On November 9, 2018, Fr. Dougherty from META Peace Team will be saying all weekend Masses at St. Rita's. His program aim is to resolve conflict in nonviolent ways. Plans are being finalized to offer the META Peace Team program training in January 2019. Marla and Joan are designing an insert for parish bulletins.

Joan thanked Chris for the "informational box" regarding Human Trafficking that is published in the parish bulletin.

Goal 6. Community

Elaine has stepped down from the pastoral council.

H. Informational Reports from our Pastor and Deacon

Fr. Tom

- Fr. Tom and Deacon Chris have been busy with weddings (2 at the same time)
- Construction on the welcoming room is progressing.

Deacon Chris

- Visiting the homebound is ongoing.
- Deacon Chris and Jennifer will be attending a conference on the Stephen Ministries.

I. General Comments:

- There is a woman's group that cleans the church; is there a corresponding men's group that meets?
- Tiffany heard a comment that parishioners could hear the choir better in their new location.

J. Preparation for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 9 at 7pm.

Jan Strait will chair the meeting.

Josie will be absent.

Bob Maladecki will lead us in prayer.

Deacon Chris will give continuing formation.

K. Closing Prayer

Led by Fr. Tom.