



**St. John the Baptist Mary Vianney – Parish Council Meeting
April 7, 2016**

7:00 – 8:00 pm Parish Offices

Preparation for this meeting

- Please read:** Previous meeting minutes and action items
- Please update:** On your action items or status of work in subcommittees
- Please do:** Note when the next meeting will take place (calendar of upcoming meetings attached). Contact either Kim McCarthy or Tess Mota in-between meetings with items of interest to discuss at the next meeting.

Council Members in Attendance

	Pat Bradley		Steve Lynch	✓	Tess Mota
✓	Pat Draper	✓	Kim McCarthy	✓	Melissa Robichaud
✓	Paul Lambert	✓	Jason Macari	✓	Fr. Ray Theroux
✓	Patty Lambrou	✓	Adam Mercier		

Call to Order

Prayer and Review/Approval of minutes

Group Photos – Done! Will need to get photos of those unable to make it tonight.

Old Business - Updates

Continuing issues brought forward and updates from committees

1 Committee Reports:

Youth/Young Adult – Adam

- Group has been working on: Survey, Leadership/organization and Short/Long Term Goals.
 - Survey: To be completed by both parents and youth; about 10 minutes to fill out.
 - Asking typical demographics, age, name, etc.
 - “Teen-centered” Mass on Sunday night. Idea is that teens would do the music, readings, Altar service and be Eucharistic Ministers, etc. This would feed into a social afterwards. Fr. Ray stated there are enough priests that help at the Parish, so adding a Sunday night Mass could work. Pat stated that the Confirmation program operates on Sunday night, Scouts and individual classes meet on Sundays as well. The Confirmation class meets in the church at 7pm. The individual classes are 6-7pm, and 4-6pm is Scouts. It was suggested that Adam reach out the Erin Blais to discuss how they could collaborate.
 - Other questions relate to how much time every week the youth would be able to devote to parish based activities; how important attending activities are in relation to other priorities/commitments and what the best days are for these events; what types of events (social, movie night), community service, faith building, parish involvement (teach CCD, Lector, Eucharistic Minister); interest in a church organized sport and exploration of a youth recreation center; how the youth is already



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active in the parish; how best to contact them and an open text question soliciting other ideas, activities, services, etc.

- Fr. Ray stated that a recreation center was pursued, but the fundraising group said \$2M is a reasonable expectation to raise, but when costs were looked at it could cost up to \$12M. He is willing to explore the idea again.
- Paul asked how the survey would be distributed. It will be distributed through the CCD email server, paper copies at the end of Mass, surveys given to CCD teachers to pass out at class, link to the website and on the SJV Youth Facebook page. Another idea was to send the survey to local schools, which would entail adding an item on the survey for the youth to identify the school they attend. The pro of collecting this additional information is that it would give us a bigger picture of what youth are looking for from a parish. Patty stated that there was a specific email domain for Cumberland students that could be used as well.
- Fr. Ray asked about the target age group. The ages of 11-18 were the target, but whoever responds to the survey will dictate the age group catered to. There are advantages and disadvantages to cater to specific groups. Older youth would only be here for a couple of years, and the younger youth would be with us longer and perhaps have more time for formation.
- Adam would like to get the survey out as soon as possible and analyze responses prior to the next Parish Council Meeting.
- Leadership/Organization – Need to do more research to determine if this would be a volunteer or paid position.
- Short term goal – One month to collect and tally the survey responses, using the data to figure out what the youth ministry committee organization would look like and think about activities and do more research into the Ministry Coordinator.
- Long term goal – By the end of the year Adam has a stretch goal of having done one or two events or activities in each of the areas of service and social events. And take some action on the Ministry Coordinator position and feedback from parents kids, etc.
- Media presence – increased on Facebook by 20% (7 “likes”) to the page, St. John Vianney Youth. Have not yet determined who runs the church Facebook page.
- Contact database – Melissa sat in on a talk by the woman who runs the Youth program in the Diocese of Worcester, during the Faith Formation Day at Bryant, and was introduced to a program called Flocknote. Flocknote is a contact database that can be used to group text and send email blasts. Cost is free for up to 40-50 people and then there is tiered pricing. The first tier after 50 people costs approximately \$35-40 per month. The service can be used for ministries and groups to send text reminders, group emails, and other information. Melissa will send out the link to sign up to test it out and will look at pricing.

Perpetual Adoration – Jason

- The Perpetual Adoration Committee met April 6th and discussed short terms goals of creating an organizational structure, finding a temporary location/logistics and
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scheduling a kick-off event for the fall as well which will lead to the long term goal of 24/7 Perpetual Adoration.

- Organizational Structure:
 - There is a tiered structure to this ministry that Martha Anne is going to take the lead on.
 - Martha Anne has identified an Adoration priest who will be scheduled to visit some time this fall and do presentations on Perpetual Adoration at all Masses. There will be cards distributed that will have information for people to sign up for Perpetual Adoration days/hours.
 - We will be able to gauge interest on the cards, and determine how many days/hours can be filled. We may end up starting with a day or two or just days and no nights until we build up the list of Adorers.
 - Research was conducted that shows there are three churches that have Perpetual Adoration in RI – St. Charles Borromeo in Providence, St. Philip's in Greenville, and Immaculate Conception in Westerly. There are none in the north-eastern area of RI. If we do end up having Perpetual Adoration here, it would be good to look at this as a regional undertaking where we could let other parishes who have limited or no Adoration know what we are planning and draw Adorers from the days that they do not have Adoration in their parishes.
- Temporary Location – We talked about having a temporary dedicated space, potentially one of the small meeting spaces in the Church and then eventually moving it to its own permanent home somewhere on Church property. Directly behind the current tabernacle is an area where we thought had the most potential, where a small chapel could be built with offices surrounding it. Would need to discuss funding sources.
- Logistics – Policies related to logistics (safety, scheduling, etc.) will be written and shared with the Council. A suggestion was made to write them in a question and answer format. Once approved, they would be distributed to Adorers and can be put on the SJV Parish website.
 - As a side conversation, we also discussed possibly streaming Adoration on our website. Paul mentioned that the Stations of the Cross was streamed and recorded on Good Friday and that people continue to access it. There was a general sense that this would be a great idea and would also be good in terms of security because a camera would be in the area where Perpetual Adoration is occurring.
- Paul attended the Priest and Deacon's Deanery Conference which covers parishes in Cumberland, Lincoln and Woonsocket and mentioned that we were looking into Perpetual Adoration. There was a very good response to this from those in attendance. The priest at St. Joseph's said that his parish had been considering Perpetual Adoration, but their current schedule is Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and cannot accommodate more. His parishioners want more days. This led to discussions about possibly looking at a collaborative effort across churches in the area. Ideas included that we offer Perpetual Adoration here, and other parishes can pick up extra days on the days their parishes do not offer Adoration, or we look at 24/7 Adoration across several churches where some hours would be here and others would be in other churches.
- One of the concerns has been about hours that are not covered, or missed by Adorers. Paul stated that there is an understanding between the Bishop and a parish offering Adoration that when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance, that someone



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is there all the time. However, if somebody doesn't show up, the monstrance is covered with a veil.

- Next steps
 - Looking to start in September but would like to prepare the parish in August. As a unique way to prepare people, Tess asked if we could enlist Matt Thompson to create a video on Adoration and have it play a couple of weeks before the Adoration priest comes. The first time the video airs, we could have someone (perhaps Jason and Martha Anne or Paul) could speak about the visiting priest, and set-up the presentation of the video. Tess also suggested that since the Stations of the Cross video is popular (70 hits since Good Friday), that perhaps we could also think about providing the Mysteries of the Rosary by recording the Marian Cenacle that meets here and prays the Rosary. Even though Relevant Radio has this in audio format, which is great, this would be video. If we do have this media available, we could let Relevant Radio know about it so they could add it to their RI Events listing. We can also let them know when we start Adoration. That might increase visibility and draw more people to sign up as Adorers.
 - It was suggested that when Paul goes to the next Deanery meeting, that he provide an update to that group. Paul will contact the head of the Deanery to have Jason and Martha Anne present at the next meeting.

Annual Event – Patty

- A meeting of the committee was held on April 3rd and a tentative date of Saturday, October 15th was chosen to coincide with the parish's Anniversary. Timeframes identified were from 10am-5pm, with a break for Mass and then continue on afterwards from 6-9. Right now, the thought is that the Bazaar would be inside and the food, games, etc. both inside and outside.
- Ideas included: Food (dynamites, meatballs, grilling, etc.); ministry booths, craft booths; games for kids, and a raffle. It was discussed that we solicit parishioners who maybe have businesses to see what they could offer or volunteer in terms of products, time and talent. Youth will need service hours for Confirmation in the fall as well.
- Melissa asked if there would be any fundraiser as part of this day. Kim is in the process of researching the legal issues regarding raffles and fundraisers.
- Jason asked if there was going to be a yard sale type table available. This was something that was discussed as well. Melissa shared that we could charge \$10-20 for a table if people wanted to rent them to sell crafts, or other items.

Wrap-Up:

Kim stated that she'd like to select one weekend soon to speak to the parish about what the Council has been doing and perhaps to have sign-up sheets to help with the committees and to pass out the youth surveys. Fr. Ray suggested the weekend coming up. Kim will write up a "script" that can be read at the Masses and the Council will coordinate manning a table in the gathering space for sign-up sheets.

2 Parish Engagement – Melissa

- The group met and discussed short and long term ideas. We know that the events we are planning now in the Council committees are all a part of parish engagement, but we see the vision of the Parish Engagement group to be overarching, more having to do in the everyday moments of our church and how we keep people engaged on an ongoing basis.
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- Ideas for Parish Engagement and next steps:
 - Encourage active/visible outreach of our existing ministries.
 - We have many ministries that parishioners may not be aware of. A Some ideas of how we can increase awareness: have ministries involved in the Bazaar; create bulletin inserts with ministry information; and contact leads of parish ministries to set up a table and highlight their ministry in the gathering space. Cecile Letourneau from our group will be creating a schedule for the latter, avoiding July/Aug. We will share the schedule w/Fr. Ray and Pat to make sure there are no conflicts.
 - Gateway Moments for Evangelization. During the Faith Formation Convocation, Tess attended a talk by one of the Directors of the New Evangelization in the Diocese of Boston, called “Gateway Moments for Evangelization.” Basically, the talk was about the everyday moments of parish life - what the face of our church looks like to parishioners and the community. Our group feels that this endeavor could be a really impactful, but will take the most amount of time to actually pull off. We are proposing to take a look at all the ways we interact with parishioners today – so, for example, when someone calls the office and asks about becoming a parishioner, or schedule a Baptism, sign up for CCD, etc., what is our response? Do we just say, “We’ll send you a form,” and tell them to show up on Sunday, or are we more engaging, offering someone to sit with them and offering a follow-up? His main point was parishes should understand that many people are lost along the way and tend to come back for Sacraments. We would like to get the people together who are leading the “touchpoint” areas. Since we don’t know exactly what is done today, which leaves us in a bit of a disadvantage as to how to move forward, we are proposing to look at all of those moments and map out what we do now to see if there is something about our current processes that can be improved or enhanced. Therefore, we asked Peter Langton who helped us with Council priorities, to help us identify processes in each of these touchpoint areas to see if they can be improved in any way.
 - An idea for the future – husband and wife – family life group. There is a couple in the Diocese, Keith and Lisa Kleine, who belong to St. Philips. They are heading up men’s and women’s groups where they work separately with their own groups on faith formation, etc. but the groups are set up to complement each other so that they support each other in their roles and support each other in faith formation with their peers. The beauty of these groups is that when the husband and wife each get fed, their relationship is edified. Their whole demeanor and how this couple described the program was beautiful. Tess will try to meet with them prior to the next Parish Council Meeting.
 - Parish Directory – Lifetouch (June 18th) – Did we want 3 back-to-back weeks or spread out? It was decided that one week in each month of June, July and August was the best way to handle the appointments for photos.
 - The Lenten retreat was very powerful and we thought it would be good to do a wrap up to say how powerful it was and that we are thinking of doing another one. We were also interested in getting the emails of people who signed up. Paul will ask David what we collected. Maybe when the next retreat or formation opportunity comes up we can build the Flocknote data base with that information.
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Discussion/New Business

Summary of Discussion

- 1 Discuss and vote on any issues identified by Committees in meetings since March 3rd – See above for issues identified and resolution (if applicable)
- 2 Establish timeline for Parish Council activities for rest of 2016 (e.g. youth service opportunity, parish engagement activity, perpetual adoration kick-off/sign ups, Annual Event/Church Bazaar, announcements at Mass and tables for sign-ups, etc.) – See summaries above.
- 3 Discuss how Year of Mercy will play a role in activities for the rest of 2016 – It was thought that the Year of Mercy could be an overarching theme, and that wherever we can, we will weave in topics of Mercy within all that we do.
- 4 Identify next steps and goals for Committees to achieve before the next meeting – Committees will continue to meet and provide updates at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Adjourn

Prayer/Hymn

Next Parish Council Meeting is on May 5th



St. John the Baptist Mary Vianney
Future Parish Council Meeting Dates, 2016

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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31						

February						
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July						
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August						
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September						
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November						
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December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa

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