

Saint John the Baptist – Stewardship & Evangelization Commission

December 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Date:	December 9, 2015	Time:	6:30 pm (Mass at 5:30, Dinner at 6:00)
Chair/Vice Chair	Larry V./ Linda H.	Location:	St John's
Recorder:	Marie C.	PLC Rep:	Gloria B.

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Brandon D.	x	Dan K.	x	Deacon Gary			
Engracia H.	x	Neil S.	x	Linda H.			
Marie C.	x	Gloria B.	x	Larry V.	X		
Staff Representative:	Deacon Gary Schneider						
Guest(s) & Purpose:	from PLC: Sue R.						

- Meeting opened with prayer.
- Minutes from 11/18/2015 were approved.
- The Commission discussed ways to be welcoming, open, and hospitable. Various approaches to be open and introduce ourselves to each other before, during, and/or after mass were discussed. A summary of our thoughts will be brought up to the PLC by Gloria.
- The Commission discussed the goals for the 2015/2016. There are essentially three: 1. Encourage Prayer; 2) Increase Stewardship; and 3) Enhance the Sunday Experience (Hospitality and Greeting). One possibility to do #1 and #3 is to capitalize on the Year of Mercy and get people information on the Pope's intentions for the Year of Mercy, information on the Year of Mercy, laminated prayer cards (St. Theresa's prayer), apps (Laudate), and medals. It links people to the church and reminds them of the time spent in prayer with the church. People need to know all the possible ways to pray, from simple to complex, and short to long. Furthermore, it is a great way to evangelize. **Each member was asked to think on ways to introduce people to many different ways to pray and discuss them at the January meeting.**
- The Business Admin. Report was reviewed. One Spirit Many Gifts 2015 v 2012 will be discussed in January 2015.
- Alpha update – Neil S reported. 29 people from the St. John's Alpha group attended the retreat (~70%). Alpha's focus is to get people to have a relationship with Jesus and have an increase in prayer. It is a way to make evangelizers and encourage evangelization (when people invite others to Alpha). There is one more meeting and at that final meeting there will be an evaluation that Neil S. will use to determine success of the program and find out what works and what doesn't for next Alpha session. In January 2016 Alpha 201 will be offered, covering the sacraments and their beauty and biblical background. The fall session of 2015 (the 5th session) was essentially Alpha 101 – focusing on Jesus and personal relationships with Jesus.
- Welcoming, Hospitality and Greeting update – Brandon D. reported. He has met with both welcoming and greeting committees and has had discussions with Tom S of Welcoming and Corey E of Ushers (Greeters). Welcoming of new parishioners has switched from different rooms for their sessions. Greeting at Christmas was discussed and the importance of making sure everyone that enters the church doors is greeted. That may mean having 2 people at each door, perhaps inside and outside, with a greeting of "Welcome!" and a hand out of the mass leaflet or Christmas gift. Corey E. mentioned to Brandon D. that some other churches should be visited to see what is done right and really is welcoming at other churches (all denominations). Sue R., the vice-chair of the PLC sat in on our meeting and explained some recent decisions of the PLC. In particular, she provided several reasons why we should not have Mass attendees introduce themselves to each other at the start of Mass (for example, some people are too shy). She also provided alternative methods that would be less intrusive and disruptive (asking and encouraging people to introduce themselves and invite anyone that you see to come to hospitality at the end of mass, for example). **Everyone should share at the January meeting if they went to other churches and what the welcoming / greeting experience was like.**
- Business issues discussed were the possibilities of having a back-up recorder and a back-up PLC representative. Having an established alternate/back-up was strongly supported rather than just seeing who is available in an emergency or last minute. **Everyone should discern whether or not they would like being a back-up recorder or PLC representative.**
- A new member is still being sought. We seek someone who is a school parent and may ask the School Advisory Commission or Prin. Laird for ideas on a person to recruit. Note that this particular member term is short (goes to June 2017) because it is a replacement for Sandy S who moved out of state and her term ended June 2017. Of course any new member could re-up for a full term after June 2017. **Everyone should be actively recruiting.**
- Meeting adjourned after prayer.

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Ministries: Welcome, Legacy, ALPHA, Shepherd's Little Flocks

Committees: Nominating, By-Laws, Parish Mission, Hospitality after Mass, Ministry Fair

Future Meeting Dates: Meetings: 1/20, 2/17, 3/16, 4/20, 5/18, and 6/8