

Saint John the Baptist – Stewardship & Evangelization Commission

Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Date:	December 13, 2016	Time:	6:30 pm (Mass 5:30; Dinner 6:00)
Chair/ Vice Chair	Linda Harmon Neil S.	Location:	St. John's
Recorder:	Brandon D.	PLC Rep:	Gloria B.

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Brandon D.	X	Jane H.	X			Deacon Gary	X
Neil S.	X	Linda H.	X				
Gloria B.		Jim S.	X				
Staff Representative:	Deacon Gary Schneider						
Guest(s) & Purpose:	Mark Haidet (chair, Legacy Committee), Bill Jechorek (Welcoming Minister), Charlie and Tamara Nickoloff (discerning commission), Steve Blum (PLC at Large)						

VISION: Deepen and strengthen the faith of parishioners while maintaining an adequate worship space, offering opportunities for faith formation, providing a just wage for staff, with a balanced parish budget.

Opening Prayer and Introduction

- 1) Deacon Gary opened in prayer.
- 2) Given the large number of guests, attendees briefly introduced themselves.

Administrative Activities

- 1) Minutes from the November 15, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.
- 2) Jane H. motioned to approve the PLC Report from last month's meeting. There was some discussion about the purpose of E&S Commission proofreading PLC meeting minutes. The report was approved unanimously.

Prayer Initiative Goal

- 1) Neil S. provided some background about the Prayer Initiative, previously approved by the PLC, and distributed a handout entitled "Implementation of E&S Approved Plan to Increase Prayer."
- 2) Neil S. led a review of, and outlined, the document, especially with regards to next steps in accomplishing the goal of adding a "Prayer" section to Fr. Skluzacek's weekly email:
 - a. Neil S. debriefed attendees on the introduction and rollout of the project, maintained that work completed be documented and included in a ministry 'job description,' and outlined the possible ways responsibility for the initiative could be assigned.
- 3) Neil S. prompted the commission, and gauged member receptivity, to taking on initial responsibility of coordinating weekly prayer intentions:
 - a. Concerns were raised about compiling all prayer requests from all ministries, at the risk of the prayer section becoming too long. Neil S. directed attendees to examples of past prayers included in the handout. The commission resolved that one person per week will include a prayer of their choice and each member has responsibility only once every couple months.
 - i. It was noted that one could use existing prayers or independently authored or composed prayers. Laudate and the Conference of Catholic Bishops were cited as possible resources.
 - b. Additional considerations were raised about being inclusive of all the existing ministries while simultaneously responding to the greatest prayer needs of the church. The commission resolved that 'top of mind' prayer intentions for St. John the Baptist could come from Fr. S. and that volunteers could circulate to various ministries or 'recruit prayer contributors.'
 - c. The commission noted that it might be effective to follow monthly themes or to coordinate with Pope Francis' prayers intentions for each month.

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- 4) ACTION: Commission members will prayerfully consider how they could participate in the Prayer Initiative and its rollout. Members are to respond to a forthcoming email invitation from Neil S. with their availability.
- 5) The Prayer Initiative is targeted to launch by the first week of February or possibly sooner, with hopes of aligning with the Pope's monthly intentions for 2017.

Sunday Experience

- 1) Linda H. reported (from conversation with Tom S., chair of New Parishioner Welcome) that New Parishioner welcome packets are now available at the Welcome Desk. Packets are currently kept up to date by the New Parishioner committee for monthly New Parishioner Welcome sessions; the staff liaison will keep the desk stock replenished and up-to-date with current information
 - a. It was also reported that the Welcoming Committee has proposed to expand New Parishioner Welcome beyond the existing one Sunday morning per month.
- 2) Jane H. shared recent revelations about gaining parishioner insight around the Sunday Experience and engaged the commission in a brainstorm about gathering input from parishioners. The hope is to help people feel like they have a say in how to improve the Sunday experience.
 - a. It was noted that surveys had been implemented in the past with some success, but no form of gathering feedback has been used in the last several years. The costs and benefits of a continual survey versus periodic surveys would need to be weighed.
 - b. The commission largely agreed that it values a diplomatic system for gathering parishioner input, a form that follows the Praise-Petition-Praise model, creating a venue to gather positive feedback or even prayer intentions, adaptable cards on which comments about specific areas of worship could be measured, and an open/ongoing suggestion program – after a larger survey.
 - c. Linda H. cautioned that any mode of gathering parishioner praise, criticism, comments, and suggestions would need follow-up. *How* obtained information would be collected and compiled has yet to be determined.
 - d. ACTION: The idea of applying such a survey was taken to the PLC meeting for immediate feedback.

Stewardship Committee

- 1) Linda H. shared an idea about including numbers for sacraments performed along with financial reporting to follow more of a stewardship report structure versus solely finances and money.
- 2) Linda H. reported an update from Jeff D. about the Experience Mercy program. Father Skluzacek sensed an overall increase in confessions over the last year and it was also noted that there were inquiries about the billboard from out-of-state parishes on how to implement the program. Other stats were noted and will be provided at the next meeting.

Staff Report

- 1) Nothing reported.

New Business

- 1) Father S. would like to staff evangelists at the welcome desk before/during/after weekend masses.
- 2) A comment was made about engaging / including school students and faith formation students in stewardship and service projects. A current example would be the new hymnals. Using the project as a teaching moment about the mass readings and music. The Holy Spirit Icon project from 2010 was cited as an example

Closing Prayer – Deacon Schneider

Ministries: New Parishioner Welcome, Legacy, ALPHA

Committees: Evangelization, Stewardship, Nominating, By-Laws, Hospitality after Mass

Future Meeting Dates: 1/17, 2/21, 3/14, 4/18, 5/16, 6/6