

EPIPHANY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

May 12, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Dufner, Jane Fabozzi, Joeleen Famoso, Miles Kennedy, Paul Lindemann, Mike Kraft, Wendy Mueller, Jean Phillippi, Colette Selby

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Conneran, Jay Tomaszewski

OPTIONAL ATTENDEES: Gail Mikolich, Jean Mackay

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as written. There were no participants for Open Mic.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Faith Formation: The summer program is on task with early registration. There are 3 interviews set up for the intern position. First Communion went well and there were 116 teenagers confirmed on May 9th. The group will do an evaluation on the Commission for next year.

Pastoral Care and Outreach: The Commission developed a formal review that will be conducted on a yearly basis for each ministry. They will determine the need and any help that the ministry might require.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON CHANGE THERAPY:

At the April meeting, Kevin Peterson presented information on Change Therapy for people with same sex attraction. He shared that being gay is a self-chosen identify and not everyone with SSA identifies themselves as gay. Trained, licensed therapists provide therapeutic services for those who want to live chastely with same sex attraction.

As a current issue in society, the Council had a lengthy discussion on the role of our Church in this matter. It was agreed that education was a role that we want to fill. Informing people that they don't need to live the gay lifestyle just because they experience same sex attraction is very important. As Catholics, we can say the behavior is wrong, but we can't judge their heart. We are called to love them and pray for them. It will be important to develop relationships with the people with same sex attraction that we hope to help. It is easier to talk about difficult subjects when a good relationship is formed.

The Faith Formation and Pastoral Care and Outreach Commissions will work together to create an approach to inform people on how to look at this subject and discuss it. We will provide communication that is clear without being judgmental. It will be important to welcome everyone. More information will be obtained from other sources and we will develop a leadership role in our Diocese by creating a presentation that can be presented to other parishes. This presentation may come from a positive point of view grouping many of the moral issues today as an educational tool in an adult education series.

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION FOCUS:

Jean Phillippi told the Council the mission of this Commission is to encourage greater participation and fellowship through social activities. There are only 3 members on the Commission with very limited time to attend meetings. They are struggling and really need more members, as well as a new Chair. At the present time, there are 20 different ministries listed under this group. When looking at the list, a suggestion was made to divide the list into three areas. Some groups do not require hands-on support, while others, such as Springfest, take more time. It is important to develop ways to build our volunteer base. There will be a discussion on this subject at the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Listed under the recommendations from the Strategic Planning Group was a suggestion to deepen the faith life of community leaders by attending a Coon Rapids Prayer Breakfast. It was suggested that we host the first one and possibly hold it in the fall.

There are several changes in setting up for Mass. A request for training and education on these changes be provided to the current sacristans.

The June Council meeting will be held on June 9th with the full leadership body.

6:30 – Prayer/dinner/speaker

7:15 – Commission meetings

8:30 – Parish Council meeting