

## Pastoral Council of the Parish Cluster of Belfield, South Heart, and New Hradec

May 10, 2018

The first meeting of this advisory council opened at 6:00 pm with a prayer led by Fr. Ruelle and roll call and introduction of members was taken. Fr. Bill then started the discussion explaining the purpose of this council is to be a resource for our incoming pastor, Fr. Shane Campbell and also to see how effective the activities of our parish are for our parishioners. It will also be a way to inform the parish of changes coming or any pastoral issues. He feels a spring and fall meeting twice a year would be sufficient.

### **Tony Krebs - Knights of Columbus**

Tony stated the KC's are the right arm of the church, with the main purpose of helping the pastor. Their largest project each year has been the Seminarian weekend in June in which the council was awarded third place in an international KC competition. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month is dedicated to families so Tony as the current Church Director leads the rosary that day and Andy Procive is a KC member who leads it before mass. There is also the KC picnic, Pavilion supper, blood drives, fish fries, ditch litter pick-up, and the church bazaar that they sponsor or co-sponsor. The 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights are available at special occasions such as Confirmation, Corpus Christi Sunday, etc. This council is unique in that it has members from both Catholic rites, Roman and Eastern, with the inclusion of the churches of St. Demetrius and St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Churches.

### **Brenda Volesky - Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

This is the 41<sup>st</sup> year that the Catholic Daughters has been active in the parish of St. Bernard's. They had a bake sale and a raffle at the Lenten fish fries and also host a Pavilion supper and use the money they earn to support various charities in the community. Some are Camp Recreation, Home on the Range, Assumption Abbey, Sacred Heart Monastery, Badlands Ministries, Belfield Food Pantry, ND Right to Life, and the CDA state project. They also help the KCs with their Seminarian project by serving breakfast and supper for the Prairie Dog Hunt weekend. They annually hold a Priest and Deacon Appreciation breakfast and change the location to include all three churches of Belfield. There are currently 35 members of this organization and they are always working to get more. Members of the CDA regularly recite the rosary with the KCs before their monthly meetings and this has become a very prayerful occasion for both organizations.

### **Shelley Jacobson - St. Mary's Church Finance Council Member**

Started an online giving program, they take care of building and grounds, they could use more readers and servers.

### **Robbie Obach - Music Ministry**

We currently have 5 organists able to provide music for the Sunday masses and occasionally the Saturday evening liturgy. They are Robbie Obach, Elaine Johnson, Mary Baer, Elijah Kordonowy, and Natasha Baranko, who accompanies the Youth Choir. We also provide music for the majority of the weddings and the funerals in our parish. Our goal is to have music at all weekend masses, a dedicated choir to sing at these liturgies and especially funerals, and to hold quarterly meetings for better communication. There is no paid position in music ministry.

### **Jennifer Runyan - St. Bernard's Christian Mothers Guild**

The guild is basically in charge of the kitchen and the equipment and supplies associated with the kitchen and also the cleaning upkeep. They serve the funeral lunches, First Communion breakfast, and Confirmation lunch. They always try to help out with what is needed in the parish. Their largest project is the annual church bazaar in the fall. They also donate to various organizations such as the Belfield Food Pantry and the Seminarians. They just had a potluck supper that coincided with the CCD closing mass and a farewell to Fr. Bill. They plan on welcoming Fr. Shane at the Feast of St. Bernard potluck in August.

### **Kelly Obrigewitch - Religion Release Time**

During the school year at Belfield School, there is religion release time for grades 1-6 every Friday at 8:45 am. The most common and favorite activity is mass with a party at the end of the school year. The program is strictly voluntary and parents sign a release form at school registration. This program is very well-attended and very popular with the school children.

### **Andy Procive - Grounds, Cemetery, and Buildings**

Their biggest project in the cemetery is completing the deep burials and removing the vault covers in order to take better care of the cemetery. The Cross needs to be tended to, St. Bernard's Church is in good shape, the Parish Hall/School needs new windows, and there are tentative plans for a machinery shed across the street in the parking lot. Andy does an excellent job keeping everything going from repairs to snow removal.

### **Erin Pennington - Belfield Public Preschool**

The preschool meets in two rooms in the Parish Hall/School and are rented by the Belfield Public School. There are currently 22 students, ages 3-6, and a morning class and an afternoon class. The preschool uses the gym for recess. The building is a safe and secure environment due to automatic timed locks on the door and there are security cameras throughout the building. It is not a religious program, but the children often ask about the crucifix and what it means.

### **Ericka Hutzenbiler - Young Adult Group**

This group was originally started by Seminarian Steven Vetter and he handed over the reins to Ericka. There are currently 10 regular members with occasional volunteers helping out with projects. They do a community sit down meal with cash bar and collect donations to cover the cost of the meal so the meal is free of charge. Approximately 150-180 people attend these events. The purpose of the group is to get young people together to take responsibility for the church. They do various activities together to foster socialization of young parish members.

### **Wendy Kordonowy - Director of Religious Education**

The CCD program has children from 1<sup>st</sup> grade up to 9<sup>th</sup> grade when Confirmation occurs. There are around 140 students. Everyone is welcome to attend, many students bring their friends who are not of the parish so the children are often evangelists. The goal is to make these children feel safe and loved. Classes start with open gym, a meal provided by the mothers of the students and then the learning begins. Wendy does a bulletin board with the focus of the church for that month. Currently religious education is disciple-based although some parishes are moving to family-based education. Wendy will attend a conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH this summer. She is also planning a parish mission next year sometime.

### **Deacon Loren Kordonowy**

Loren conducts server training before CCD on Wednesday at 4:30. There is a poor/mixed response by the servers. He is also in charge of the Sunday communion service for St. Luke's Nursing Home in Dickinson. This program is a huge success. Loren would like to see an annual refresher course for the Extraordinary Ministers, he would like more lay ministers, and is open to suggestions. He is also planning the Eucharistic Procession for June 3<sup>rd</sup> which is Corpus Christi Sunday.

### **Emily Henson - Eucharistic Adoration**

The parish took a break from Eucharistic Adoration and had a change in coordinators. We now hold Adoration on Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm with Kim Obrigewitch coordinating schedules and on Fridays from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm with Emily Henson in charge of scheduling. There has been a request for more days so they are now trying to fill Wednesdays and hopefully get it going very soon. Their goal is to add more days for Adoration. Emily stated she began serving a church hour last year and has come to look forward to it every week.

### **Annette Steffan - Church Decoration**

From Palm Sunday to May the church décor changed 14 times. The Easter Season, Confirmation, Pentecost, Crowning of Mary in May, ordinary time, Corpus Christi Sunday are just some of the different occasions. The church environment slows down in the summer. Annette has a room at the Parish Hall and she has many weddings and other activities to prep for. She is working on organizing that room and plans to help clean the classrooms with the scrubber. She is trying to get more people to help decorate and wants to do something specific for St. Bernard's Feast Day. There is a need for another person to help water plants during Christmas and Easter and someone to help with planting and maintaining flower beds plus watering in the summer. She would like to see a church cleanup day outside during the spring. She feels someone needs to address the rental rates, etc. and has lots of ideas.

### **Lana Procive - Feed the Heart Ministry**

The catalyst for this organization was the frequency of suicides in the area and Fr. Bill's sermon on this topic. The goal is to just let people know they are loved and not forgotten. Pray It Forward cards were sent out to every parish family, these cards were hand-addressed while the volunteers were praying the rosary. Several young people are involved and the group takes meals to people who may have medical issues, in bereavement, or maybe just alone. They now have a budget to provide these meals. Another goal is to welcome new families that join our parish or are just new to the community with something like a plate of cookies.

Our next meeting will be held on September 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm. The meeting closed at 8:00 pm with a prayer.

Robbie Obach

Acting Note Taker