

2018 Town Hall Meeting Recaps

January 11, 2018

35 total attendees - 13 not involved in the committees.

We gathered in the Church for prayer and reports --- State of the Parish, Councils, and Commissions.

All reconvened in the hall for the discussion portion of the Town Hall.

Deacon Sandy explained the new maintenance structure.

Question regarding financial impact was responded to by Sandy and Mark stating the decision was less about the financial and more about being more effective and efficient. The financial impact will be realized and reviewed at the end of a year's experience.

As has always been the case, if set-up is required – please contact the parish office.

There seems to be a misunderstanding between the number of registered parishioners compared to the number that come to Mass. Based on the numbers submitted annually to the archdiocese, (Status Animarum), Sandy indicated that Good Shepherd has one of the highest percentages of attendance in the Archdiocese.

Evangelization and Christian Formation continues to encourage participation in the Mass.

Note: the numbers that were reported at the Town Hall were reflective of the Sunday that the count was taken.

Do some of our families go to Generations of Faith and not go to Mass? Response: Yes and No... Corinna indicated Mass attendance on GOF Sundays is trending up. Anecdotal comment -- - the GOF attendees really want to be there and create a vibrancy.

A question was asked about what we are doing to attract the younger generations. Response: This seems to be a malady of the Church around the country. Deacon Sandy suggested we may need to rethink how we are reaching the Millennials and our understanding of how the Millennials think about their faith and spirituality. Tim Nolan indicated that they – the Millennials – like some that have come before them – are coming back. Corinna noted that this situation is not just Catholic. And some are practicing their faith at college. Judy commented that the Listening to the Lord seems to be a draw and serves as base to get the youth started on their faith journey.

8 families have joined GS since the first of the year.

A reflection from Tammy was that coming to Mass as a single person has a different feel --- is not have the same as coming as a family.

A question was asked if the counter-parts at St. James and Good Shepherd are having a chance to discuss, share and compare ideas and activities. Linda responded that the Councils are beginning to discuss opportunities to collaborate.

A question was asked about the liturgical space enhancement. Sandy shared that over the last several years we have had memorial contributions designated for worship space design. Worship space suggestions have been gathered from the Parish leaders and Conrad Schmitt has submitted possible renovation renderings. A smaller leadership group is now in the process of reviewing the renderings with the intent of developing the sharing with the larger GS community.

A question was asked regarding what the youth are being taught in our Christian Formation programming. Corinna responded that the faith development curriculum is targeted and customized to the age group. The programs are from major publishers and approved by the Archdiocese. Catechism, national publishers, approved Arch curriculums and in-house developed programs are used.

A question was asked about the reconciliation of the %s that were reported in the Town Hall presentation. Bill shared that the financial report/recap is reported in Breaking Bread on a quarterly basis. The 2.35% increase is investment and reserves. The 7.1% increase in revenue is due to the 60th Anniversary and the Loose Change Challenge. Expenses are down 4.5% as of the end of December. The expenses will likely adjust once the December/year end bill payments are reflected.

A question regarding rentals was asked. Response: We only rent to non-profit organizations to keep us within the proper tax category. The rentals are consistent at approximately \$50,000 annually.

A question was asked about the possibility of Hartfel House being sold. The response was, we could but why?

A question was asked regarding the religious education planning - the incorporation of world/international issues being covered. Mike responded that social justice pieces are typically covered in GOF in order to reach the diverse generations. One of the challenges in covering it in the 7 classes is that we only have 7 classes to lay the base for the Theology.

A question was asked if we are redefining ourselves as Good Shepherd. Sandy responded that while change is constant - we remain a beacon of social justice. The core charism is defined in our mission statement. Jane Clare commented that we continue to be pioneers and we are sharing the results of that pioneering with other parishes. Mike shared that if we appear less different it may be because others have caught on.

Kay and John commented that they have experienced – in their travels – that Good Shepherd is known around the country. Sandy shared that during his day at Sacred Heart this week three

members of the Milwaukee Archdiocese were highlighted in the comments made by a New York journalist.

January 13, 2018

25 total attendees - 4 not involved in committees

Opening format was the same as January 11.

What is the outreach committee on human concerns? Response: Subcommittee of Human Concerns. Main purpose is to distribute a 2.5% of the parish income. As we are asked to tithe to the parish, the parish tithes to those outside of our walls. Meets 3-4 times per year. Different organizations request funds. Given to organizations that are outside of the parish, primarily working with the poor and marginalized locally, nationally, and internationally.

Renovations – why do we need an outside consultant – what’s wrong with it now? Response: Nothing is wrong with it. A person who loves the parish gave a donation with the express desire to renovate the parish. After nearly 30 years there are some needs (carpeting, etc.) that need attention. The donation funds are expressly earmarked. Important that we understand that this gift is designated. When it comes to design it needs to focus on fully active participation by the community. In the past 2 years all of the leadership groups have been engaged (staff, pastoral council, prayer and worship). A smaller group is reviewing now, and information will be shared with parish community for discussion and consensus before any final decisions are made or actions taken.

A question was asked about the update and review about maintenance change. Response: For several years we have been looking at ways to keep improving the parish department structure. It is felt we can best serve the parish by outsourcing to professional services. Mark Steimle will handle the outsourcing. Within the last year building and grounds committee has been involved in evaluating where the parish is spending its resources. We felt outsourcing was the more effective and efficient way to handle the services. We will be outsourcing cleaning and landscaping, which were major components. For the foreseeable future we will deal with outside services. This is just Good Shepherd and has nothing to do with St. James. From a parishioner vantage point there should be no discernable changes. Let staff know if there is.

Multi-parish institute – what is it and is it something mandated by arch? Response: There are not enough priests for 1 per parish. There are a number of parishes coming together in creative ways to address this. There have been some mergers, some closings, and some clustering. Clustering means that there are 2 or more parishes that retain their own identities (for example, Good Shepherd and St. James). We have just one leader – one parish director for both. Still separate financial entities, commission structures are different. We lose nothing, but have the advantage of opening the door to new opportunities. The multi-parish institute will be headed by Fr Tim Kitzke who is an expert in multi-parish collaboration. He will

moderate/facilitate the institute to discuss what's working, what to look out for. Looking for ways to share gifts, not imposition or contraction. We can be proud that Good Shepherd has been willing to collaborate and welcoming to looking at new ways to do things with other parishes.

Do we have a sense of the percent of Good Shepherd parishioners attending at St James?

Response: Anecdotal only. Noticed at the 9:30 Christmas Eve mass at St James that there were a number of Good Shepherd parishioners there because the time was convenient for them. By naturally sharing gifts between parishes the hope is there will be a free flow of attendance between the 2 parishes as well. Bible studies, communal reconciliation – there are 25 different things Good Shepherd has done in the past with St. James, St. Anthony, St. Mary's, and St. Agnes collaboratively. Stewardship commission is reaching out to the stewardship commissions at the other parishes for an exchange of ideas. Linda Belkowski has reached out to St. James pastoral council to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Staffs are talking to each other and working together (pre-dates official clustering). Both parishes have local, national, and international ministries. We can look at our global relationship in Ella Curia, and St James relationship with St. Martin de Porres in Milwaukee as opportunities to collaborate on these ministries.

Good Shepherd has 70 ministries - how many different parishioners are involved? The average invite to appreciation dinner (active in ministries within the past year) is between 400-450 with about 200 attending. This would be a good indication regarding involvement in ministries. Many people are involved in multiple ministries. Stewardship commission is dedicated to help the community become more aware of the different groups who are working behind the scenes to open the opportunities for more people to get involved.

Generations of Faith – 17 adults no children – middle-aged and older (probably 60 and over). How do we recruit more? Most were invited by someone already there. Reduced fee for older adults in an effort to encourage participation. Perception that it is for parents and children only. Make it easier for older adults – for example, folders are upstairs – not easily accessible. (This will be changed beginning tonight). GoF, Growing Faith, Listen to the Lord, Vacation Bible School– over 30 hours of formation every year if they participate in all of these.

Question to attendees – how might we encourage more participation in the Town Hall gatherings?

- Have it when it's warmer.
- Rename it – state of the parish and conversation rather than town hall
- Provide a brief synopsis with each of the commissions as step announcements or warm-up

- Coordinate after a mass when people are already here (with food). This time was chosen primarily because of programming – and – in relationship to other parishes

Question to attendees – what is good? - what is going well?

- Thankful that we can get assisting priests who understand what this parish has been and not plus us into a dictatorial model. Sandy explained that the arch realized that rather than placing individuals they ask the parish if there are priests who would be a good fit. We recommended Capuchin. St. James will be getting a second assisting priest – they have submitted a list of 6. Currently there are 9 parish directors in the archdiocese – 3 lay women – 3 lay men – 3 deacons.
- Coming to hear the word each week – we are blessed with gifted homilists.
- Continuing commitment to social justice issues.
- Connections help to draw the children here – they will see their friends. It's all about relationships.