Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church of Napa

Summary Notes: Parish Pastoral Council / Resumen: Consejo Pastoral de la Parroquia

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<td>Call to order</td>
<td>The meeting was called to order by Frances Opening prayer offered by Kristy</td>
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<td>Agenda</td>
<td>Agenda reviewed, approved</td>
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<td>Minutes/Summary Notes</td>
<td>Minutes/Summary Notes of the June 20 meeting approved as distributed</td>
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|        | Introduction of Guest(s) | Guests welcomed:  
- Lee Nordlund  
  Lee shared his background of involvement in parish and community work, including tenure with the organization that arranged for the display of the AIDS quilt on the Washington, DC Mall in the 1980s where a million people gathered to honor those whose lives were memorialized by the quilt.  
  Lee encourages people to see everything they do as "reaching out to others" in the context of evangelization. Drawing from his involvement with the Oakland Cathedral of Christ the Light, where he was active with multiple constituencies, Lee offered two suggestions for consideration by our parish  
  (1) Help people better understand the Mass – perhaps before Mass begins, describe one small part of the Mass and why we do what we do. Helps people better understand what it is they are doing. E.g., Why do we offer Eucharist in two species?  
  (2) Before the start of the Mass, say the names of the saints (or some of the saints) whose feasts will be celebrated during the coming week. Have people raise their hands if they are connected in some way to any of the saints. | Add to religious education/faith formation "to do's"  
Coordinate with Dn. Joe with the intent of incorporating Lee's ideas into liturgical planning, including the upcoming liturgies for the Marian Consecration | Lee, Joe, others?  
(Note: example in action - at 5 pm Mass on Sept. 24, Dn. Joe incorporated Lee's suggestions into the service by providing background for the readings for the congregation and calling forth the names of some of the saints whose feasts we would honor during the coming week) |
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|        |       | - Ian Stanley  
In introducing Ian, Frances noted she has known Ian for more than 10 years. She shared how she admired Ian's good work when he served as coordinator of the St. John's youth group as well as his many accomplishment and community contributions.  

In speaking of his affiliation with SJC, Ian noted he was born and raised in Napa, attended school and church here, was hired by SJC to start the bilingual Youth Ministry program, which he led from 2002-2005. As Ian noted, this was a dangerous/risky time for young people in Napa.  

Following his tenure with the Youth Ministry Ian began working at VOICES and eventually established the LGBTQ Connection program that is now seen as a model for California. Programs recently opened in Sonoma and Calistoga in addition to the Napa program, established in 2011.  

Ian described his experience of coming out as a gay person, noted it was not easy for him and remarked that his family was always supportive, something that not all of the young people served by LGBTQ Connection experience. (Ian spoke of young people who have been abandoned by families with nowhere to turn.)  

Ian wanted us to know how much he values his faith. He noted that the song "Here I Am Lord" has special meaning for him: "I wanted to be all that God created me to be." Ian said that silence can be perceived as not being welcomed, but that people need to go through a process when faced with the unfamiliar.  

With regard to the Latino community of Napa county, Ian noted that misperceptions persist. Half of his staff members are of Mexican heritage, all staff are bilingual. They have been warmly welcomed and invited back to do presentations for students, teachers and parents at several Napa schools whose students are predominantly of Latino heritage.  

Asked by a member of the PPC if LGBTQ Catholics are able to find dedicated ministries or particularly welcoming congregations in Catholic parishes, Ian responded in the affirmative and shared examples.  

Ian concluded that he came to the PPC to simply tell his story as a way of furthering understanding. | Learn more about what support other parishes offer for LGBTQ members, what we can learn from their history/experience and what ideas we might explore over time. | TBD |

**Administrative Agenda**

**Reports**

- **Pastor's Update**

  Fr. Mora
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|        |       | • English language music ministry adult choir is going through a period of some turmoil. A number of people are involved in helping things out.  
• Parish is no longer sponsoring the bus. Piner's took over the bus and is committed to bringing the one parishioner who resides at that facility to Mass each week for the duration of her life. Fewer and fewer people have been using the bus over time and it was no longer feasible to cover the upkeep. As an alternative, the church is able to cover the cost of Uber for those who have used the bus in the past and who may need transportation, and/or, able-bodied parishioners may wish to offer transportation for their frail neighbors. Some complaints about the elimination of bus service were received, not unexpectedly,  
• Fr. Mora noted that some parishioners state they have a difficult time understanding Fr. Kyallo, in part because of the microphone/sound system (or our inability, thus far, to adjust the sound system such that it captures commentary with greater clarity)  
• Fr. Mora remarked that requests have been received for him to rotate presiding at Masses, i.e., to celebrate English language Masses as well as Spanish language Masses. Though he would like to do so, at this time he is our only Spanish-speaking priest and is obligated to celebrate all Spanish language Masses, marriage ceremonies, etc. Deacon Jaime is helping out where and whenever he can. Unfortunately, there is not enough time to do all one might wish to do.  
• Corporation Sole is moving along but is not yet finalized.  
• Safe Environment policies and training are likely to become more of a parish responsibility under Corporation Sole. More to come next month.  

Update: 10/2/17

Safe Environment (SE) requirements are unchanged. However, it's time to revisit them in that we've not recently attended to the policies that apply to us. SE requirements have been in place for many years, are often administered by a given diocese, and largely apply to those who work with children in any capacity (in parishes, schools, etc.). The fingerprint (LiveScan) and SE training requirement also applies to EMCs who bring the Eucharist to the sick and/or homebound as part of their ministry. The fingerprint requirement does not apply to EMCs who bring the Eucharist to their immediate family members. At present, for those EMCs who have served the sick and/or homebound on an on-going basis, fingerprinting only is required. The training component is waived. However, anyone who wishes to avail her/himself of the training is welcome to do so by accessing the online Diocesan training program. Go to: <https://santarosa.cmgconnect.org/> and proceed.  

To reiterate, what we are asking of our volunteers is NOT a new requirement, is not exclusive to SJC or the Diocese of Santa Rosa, is not exclusive to the Catholic community. And it is quite possible that some/most of our wonderful "outreach" EMCs have already completed the LiveScan process. Further information is available at: [http://www.santarosacatholic.org/content/child-and-youth-protection](http://www.santarosacatholic.org/content/child-and-youth-protection) (lb) | Verify what Safe Environment policies and practices are already in place and how, or if, these differ significantly from whatever has been suggested under Corporation Sole. (It may be that the policies themselves are not drastically changed but that the responsibility for their monitoring transfers to the parish level.) | Lynne |
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|        | PPC’s Chair Report           | Frances Ortiz-Chavez  
- Attended three day workshop, offered in Spanish and led by Dr. Victoria Echeverria, for those experiencing grief and loss. The program leader is a well-known professional in Mexico and is able to place the experience of grief and healing in a cultural context.  
- The workshop was particularly appropriate at this time in Napa where many Latino families are experiencing actual or anticipatory grief because of DACA and ICE issues and related rulings. Frances remarked that as a parish we may be able to offer some resources that can help alleviate the suffering that is obvious to her in her day-to-day activities. Frances also noted that the longevity of grief (holding onto grief) and grief triggered by violent events were issues addressed in the workshop,  
- Frances noted that workshops offered at St. A's are available to SJC parishioners. | Explore possibilities of available services through the parish or how we can link parishioners to community services; possibility of (parish) support group. | Frances, others TBD |
|        | Interparish Formation        | Joe Oberting  
- Acknowledging that everyone is quite busy, the deacons are sharing information via calla, e-mail, conversations rather than attempting to set up meetings. This process is working well.  
- Provided Communion service at Veterans' Home  
- Working with Fr. Abel at St. Thomas. Potluck dinner scheduled for September 24. | Information                                                                                           |                                                                  |
|        | English Language Ministry    | Joe Oberting  
- Group met in August and will meet again on November 12 following 10 am Mass; nine members in attendance.  
- Discussed importance of placing greater emphasis on involving youth in parish activities  
- Joe noted that he, Priscilla and Lynne had an opportunity to hear a presentation by Rich Curran in July at St. Francis Parish in Sonoma. Rich is a public speaker and consultant involved with helping parishes grow. He shared his just-published booklet focusing on what he sees as the key elements to parish growth. (Note: Lynne provided a handout derived from the first chapter of Curran's booklet to members of the PPC during the group's July 28 retreat. The document was subsequently forwarded electronically to members of the PPC on August 6.)  
- Ministry list is available on website and is a work in progress. Olivia noted that she believes the school should actually be listed/considered as a ministry of the parish  
- Trained 40 youngsters from the school as altar servers, Kids came from 3rd and 4th grade classes.  
- Trained 40 kids as altar servers – 3rd & 4th grade  
- Joe requested that each member of the group send him three ideas about what they would like to see emphasized for the parish  
- Lee Nordlund suggested we offer more parish-wide activities and also do faith-based "infomercials" at the beginning of Mass, possibly delaying the start time of the | Information                                                                                           | Consider update to website reflecting same |
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|        | Mass in order to do so | **Liturgical Life Committee**  
- Other suggestions: greater focus on social justice ministry, increase involvement in interparish activities (beyond Thanksgiving and MLK)  
- Need to do a better job of planning for and publicizing holy days of obligation such as the Feast of Assumption  
- Family (school) Mass will rotate this year between the 10 am (English) and noon (Spanish) Masses  
- On-going concern re: sound system, with the acknowledgement it may be the ability to run the system and not the system itself that is the reason for unresolved problems  
- Parish financial report released, announced at Mass and provided as handout; well received | Find professional sound tech who may be willing to consult with us; look into resources from NVC/NVC grads (TV Tech program), etc. | Lynne has one resource she will contact |
|        |        | **Spanish Language Ministry**  
- No report |  |  |
| **Dialogue** |  | **PPC Focus & Scope**  
- Priscilla facilitated the dialogue component of the meeting with the intent of following through on some of the ideas from our retreat in the spirit of Pope Francis, as described by Cardinal Tobin whose presentation to this past summer's Bishops and Laity Conclave we watched in July.  
- Key points:  
  - When Pope Francis made the Italian island of Lampedusa the destination for his first voyage following his election as Pope, his purpose was to recognize the courage of the people there who, with modest resources of their own, stepped up to care for the many refugees arriving on their shores  
  - By his own actions, Pope Francis was reminding us to be forward thinking and to reach beyond (perceived) limits  
- Using this framework:  
  - **Forward in our thinking**  
  - **Risk courageous action**  
  - **Reach beyond our limited peripheral vision**  
- Priscilla linked these concepts to the eight areas that comprise our PPC Focus and Scope, noting that all are important and that we can realize their intent through purposeful action on behalf of our fellow parishioners. Important to keep in mind that "what the church asks of us" and "what we want from the church" are not consistently the same thing (Rich Curran)...  
- We discussed the similarities and differences between the terms "religious education" |  |  |

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<td>(know) and &quot;faith formation&quot; (grow), agreed that they are distinct but related and that both are important. Jim offered a list of ideas, members reviewed the document presented and engaged in discussion. Jim suggested several means by which we could move forward. Group agreed that #4 on the list: &quot;creation of a PPC work group with PPC members and parishioners&quot; is doable in the short term. Concerns: the voice of our Latino PPC members is missing from the discussion; need to be sensitive to cultural as well as linguistic differences among groups that make up our parish (Fr. Mora noted that he recently performed a Baptismal ceremony for a family who was Peruvian, not Mexican [as assumed]; the cultures are not interchangeable) much is already taking place in our parish - e.g., religious education not only through the school but through sacramental preparation classes, RCIA, children's ed; all are using vetted materials we have yet to fully catalogue the many groups that are active within the Spanish language ministry of our the parish (about 70%, or more, of our parish membership) need to consider what resources are/are not available for the parish as we go forward with programs/plans</td>
<td>PPC members present determined that it was premature to act on the items on the list but that Priscilla would convene a bicultural sub-group to do some deeper work between now and the October PPC meeting.</td>
<td>Priscilla</td>
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<td>Summary: Key Points/Actions</td>
<td>Incorporate Lee's suggestions in faith formation planning Find ways to be supportive of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters who are and wish to remain members of the church Check on Safe Environment requirements to determine what, if any, changes are proposed (Note: Safe Environment programs are long-standing.) Find ways to be helpful to Latino parishioners/families whose need for grief support within a cultural context is unmet at this time Confirm that there is agreement that the school should be considered a ministry of SJC; make adjustments to website accordingly (conversation with Olivia, Fr. Mora, Joe, others??) Convene ad hoc group to work on ideas pertinent to religious education/faith formation (Priscilla working offline with Rolando Ortiz, Jaime Tafolla, Amparo Velanzuela, etc. in advance of sub-group meeting scheduled for October 3)</td>
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<td>Adjournment</td>
<td>Priscilla offered the closing prayer The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm Next meeting: October 17, 2017, 7-9 pm, Rectory Conference Room</td>
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