

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL LISTENING SESSION

9 a.m. Saturday, December 3

Rodney Thomas Room

MEETING MINUTES

Nine people were in attendance for the listening session and there was spirited conversation among the group regarding the following topics.

1. Site Survey.

- A parishioner who has prior affiliation with the FBI, has offered to conduct a site survey for both campuses. The resulting document, provided to first responders, EPD, and others will provide detailed information on the security of the buildings, closest Level 1 trauma center, fire suppression systems and others. He offered to do this as a part of his annual stewardship commitment.

2. Church Music.

- There was some discussion regarding the music at weekend Masses and one individual in attendance suggested that it would be nice to have a variety of music offerings at different Masses throughout the weekend. He referenced "Testify" – a more contemporary group that provided you music for a Mass this past summer. He would like to see us offer more of this type music as a variety throughout the year.

3. One Campus.

Building a sense of community and priority around one campus was noted more than once. Not a brick and mortar need, but a community spiritual need. **All agreed that it's all about family.**

There is still concern about church and school being on separate campuses and there were a couple of items referenced to support that:

- Sister stated that in the current scenario, children are not getting Adoration opportunities.
- A person voiced the concern that one campus might not happen because it has taken so long...her understanding was that it would happen.
- One commented that Masses are not full now. A Parish Council member reminded us that having four Masses is the exception in the Archdiocese not the rule. Three Masses are aligned with Canon Law. There has been some discussion about whether there is a need to change Mass times in order to better accommodate the entire Church community.

- Another person said that the decision to build a church or not should come from Father and the leadership of the Church.

It was agreed that there is a need for much more conversation around this topic and a commitment from council members to move forward with that.

4. Saint James School.

- A SJS teacher in attendance had experienced a 3-D printing exercise at a high school. The impetus was to build children's thinking and strategic planning skills. She stated how critical it is for our children to have strong skill sets as these. She also spoke of the need to improve technology at SJS citing the "slowness" of the current computer system
- Two people spoke of the need for a High School. They stressed how such a school is so important today...the value it brings to our faith community and to the individual.
- There was conversation about a Sport Leader Program that is an excellent resource for our youth. Cost is \$2500.00 for a four-year commitment. The school is trying to make a decision about this investment.
- As one person stated, we all need to think outside the box. For example, a high school doesn't have to resemble St. X. We could consider starting with a 9th grade and add on from there.

5. Demographics.

- One parishioner was concerned that the Church is not involving the 30-40yr. old group enough. This group is currently the largest demographic at St. James.

6. Engagement.

- There was concern about the engagement of the parish at this level of conversation. All agreed to think about how to engage more parishioners of varying ages, ethnicity, etc.
 - Recommendations:
 - More sessions like today's
 - Surveys
 - Prayer of Intention

The session ended with the following statement - Jesus's love is free...everything else costs. That requires us to be thoughtful and planful about our direction...but keep moving!