

**ATTENDEES:** Fr. Martin Linebach, Fr. Casey Sanders, Cheri Ellis-Reeves, Jeff Lanz, Andrew Collins, Jennifer Moran, Stacia Reynolds, Coty Oropilla, Mimi Pike, Greg Schrecke, Jakob Sherrard, Angela Pike, Sr. Marie Hannah, Paula Knowles, and Lou Edmondson.

**AGENDA:**

Welcoming RCIA: Council members gathered with Exploring Catholicism participants in SJS cafeteria to welcome RCIA candidates and members.

Pastor's Comments: Upon returning to the SJS library for the Council meeting, Fr. Martin read a homily from St. John Chrysostom and reflected upon an article written by John Garvey at the Catholic University of America, emphasizing that, as it pointed out, the most important thing the laity can do to rebuild the church is to raise their children in the faith. Parents are the first educators of their children. Father also emphasized that the formation of families and family ministries is vital to the parish of St. James. He reminded the council of the statement from Bishop Roger Foys, "While there may be alternatives to Catholic education, there are no substitutes."

Welcoming New Members/Guests: Lou welcomed Jakob Sherrard as the new Youth Representative. He will serve the council with Grace Lewis. Jakob expressed that this position on the council allows him to deepen his participation in the life of the church community since he was unable to attend SJS.

Lou welcomed Angela Pike as the new Stewardship Committee Chair. Paula Knowles has chosen to vacate that position to give more energy to her other leadership roles and her teaching at SJS. Paula will remain as the Stewardship/Mission Advancement Council Representative who continues to have responsibility for the Stewardship Committee, the Social Events Committee, the Sunday Morning Coffee & Donuts Committee, and the Welcome Committee.

Lou also welcomed Andrew Collins, our new Youth Minister. Andrew presented to the council members why he wants the council to be involved as "mentors" to two confirmation candidates. Our youth face many struggles: parental divorce, porn, suicide, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, etc., and to effectively mentor and support the youth, we need to grow in our understanding of what they experience. We can do that by mentoring with them in day-to-day situations and ministry services. He has tried to pair the youth in the confirmation class with ministries that might tie to their talents that were revealed from the "strengths test" the youth had taken and discussed with Andrew prior to their ministry pairings. With the council's agreement, Andrew will be assigning two youth to work with the council in ways that can bring his vision to fruition. He hopes that this mentoring can foster in them a true, lasting and deeper relationship with Christ on a daily basis. As Andrew explained, if we invest heavily in just 3 people, and those 3 invest heavily in 3 people, etc., the idea is that within 33 years, all souls will be touched.

Andrew additionally reported that Life Night on Wednesdays with the youth has generated positive response. The participation has fluctuated, as would be expected, but Jakob could attest that the discussions that Andrew presents for the youth are eye-opening and engaging.

Pastoral Council Needs/Goals: Lou asked that the council consider what are the needs that the council should address this year, including what we are doing well and need to continue, and what practices should be discontinued. A suggestion was made that the council focus more on committees to determine where improvements can be made. Also, it was mentioned that getting the parish council minutes out in a timelier manner to the parish at large might be helpful.

SJS Update: Sr. Marie Hannah reported that the school has a 96% success rate with delinquent accounts. On December 15, a kick-off for tuition assistance will be offered as a way to answer questions that parents have in this transition to tuition. She emphasized that communication is very important in this process, especially in helping people to understand that only a select few administrators will know who does and who does not receive assistance. It is a confidential application process for anyone seeking tuition assistance, and those receiving assistance is also confidential information.

Additional Notes: The school and parish staff had attended a retreat at Mount St. Francis, IN, for social and moral review. The St. James Mission and Mission Statement were discussed and reflected upon as one of the topics.

Closing: Fr. Casey closed the meeting with a prayer honoring the Blessed Mother.

**NEXT MEETING:** October 23, 2018