

**LIVING WATER CATHOLIC  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
December 2, 2018**

**Attendance:** Fr. Scott Euvrard, Ken Steeves, Jen Brown, Matt Hale, Bill Cowie  
Claire and Paul Brewer, Jon and Kate Ayres, Diane and Ed Mills, Joanne Levesque  
Ruthann Frost, Meredith Smith

An opening prayer provided by Claire and Paul Brewer was read by all. Ken Steeves also read a Billy Graham passage on Hope. Brief introductions and reflections on our Thanksgiving holiday were given by those present.

**Review of the Pastoral Plan:**

Leaders of the Faith Formation collaborative team were first to present their findings. Meredith handed out material to those present, giving brief overviews of each new program. The positives of the programs were discussed as well as the challenges and what still needs to happen to continue to engage new families. Some comments shared were as follows:

- We needed to change, it will take time, but parents are engaged and asking questions and kids are responding. The Parish Hall is packed.
- We are coaches of parents. This will bring life-long success.
- The post Confirmation groups ~ what are we doing to engage and retain them to continue on the path as Disciples of Christ? Some parishes in NH and VT are now starting to Confirm students earlier. Our Cardinal has not made any decision on this possible future change.
- Making Music Praying Twice held Monday mornings at HFP and Thursday mornings at SOS Parish. There is a good mix of parents, grandparents providing good community contact for adults. This program fills the gap for children from post Baptism to grade K.
- The Discovering Christ series recently graduated a group of adults who completed all three seven-week sessions. Those present who attended these sessions, offered their overview of the program. A Lenten plan is to run all three sections on Friday evenings. We would come together for meal, whole families with music, and then we would split into groups. Meredith is hoping the Sharing Christ group will come back to help facilitate. We will then promote Holy Week at the same time.

**Other Business:**

There has been a decline in Mass attendance since June 1st. Factors contributing are the recent scandals, resulting in some people opting out. Other factors were the challenges of our worship space due to the construction of the steps, the recent loss of heat as well as the changes in Mass times. We will continue to monitor and hope to see an uptick.

Star of the Sea Parish has raised \$570,000 towards their Capital Campaign. This funding will go towards making the downtown church handicapped accessible.

The renting out of the other building on the Holy Family Parish property is in a holding pattern with the YWCA in Newburyport.

We are housing ten workers, ages 18-24) from AmeriCorps at the Beach Rectory in Salisbury as they work on housing for Habitat for Humanity.

Results of the recent survey will be made available soon. Those who took the survey appeared to be more engaged in their parish, even though the overall numbers were down.

There will be a meeting in Rome in February of the Bishops from around the world, hoping for a more unified global approval on the clergy sexual abuse crisis within the church.

**Next Meeting Information:**

Our next meeting will be held on January 27, 2019. A Hospitality representative will be invited to present her review of the Pastoral Plan at that time.

Refreshments for our next meeting will be provided by Jen Brown and Ruthann Frost  
Opening Prayer by Bill Cowie and Closing Prayer by Diane Mills

Our closing prayer was then offered by Ken Steeves.