

Q Group Minutes

October 8, 2018

5:45 P.M. - 7:45 P.M., Room 101

In attendance: Bradley Barnes, Kevin Carter, Mike Dunn, Mary Ann Ey, Tate Hilgefert, Greg Nicolai, Irene Schmidt, Jennifer Stoehr, Tiffany Strah

The meeting began with prayer.

Mike Dunn reported that the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) would like the Q Group to release the results of the parish survey conducted earlier this year and also propose a timeline for completing its final recommendations to the PPC. The PPC would like the survey results released within 30 days. The group agreed to (1) complete discussion of the four “pillars” at this meeting (the October 8 meeting); (2) draft an outline of its final recommendations to present to the PPC in December 2018; (3) present the PPC with a draft of its final recommendations in February 2019; and (4) release the final version of its recommendations in April 2019.

Tiffany Strah circulated a six-page document with the parish survey results summarized visually in table and graph format. The group agreed that this summary can be released to the parish along with a brief written introduction, possibly in the form of a cover letter from Fr. King. Mike Dunn agreed to draft this introduction, and Irene Schmidt will review and edit before it is shared with the full group for further review and comments. The introduction will then be sent to Fr. King for his review and approval.

The introduction will be objective in nature; it will simply explain what the survey results show. A more comprehensive summary of the survey results, along with an interpretation of the results, will be incorporated into the group’s final recommendations to be released in April 2018.

Tiffany Strah led a discussion of the visual summary of the survey results. Survey respondents believed that these were among the parish’s areas of strength: Mass times, the quality of the school, the pastoral staff (in particular Fr. King), relationship with the Athenaeum of Ohio, and the parish’s history and traditions. The group also discussed what survey respondents believed were areas of weakness.

Irene Schmidt led a discussion of her sub-committee’s research into pillar two (bringing non-practicing Catholics back to the faith). The sub-committee concluded among other things that the parish should establish an outreach program to inactive Catholics. The parish must renew its commitment to “personal invitation” and fostering a welcoming culture. One specific suggestion is to task a staff member with overseeing an outreach or “evangelization” ministry. Parishioners should be encouraged to bring visitors with them to Mass, especially on holidays like Easter and Christmas.

Jennifer Stoehr led a discussion of her sub-committee's research into pillar three (bringing non-Catholics into the fullness of the faith). Much of this discussion centered on the RCIA process. One suggestion from the group was to explore ways to personalize the RCIA experience. The length and intensity of the RCIA process may deter people from choosing to join the church. Another area of concern is the perceived divide between families with children enrolled at the school and families without children enrolled there. There are too few opportunities for fellowship and social outreach among families without children enrolled at the school. Ideally, a group of young, energetic parents without a connection to the school would form a group for this purpose and encourage socializing among similarly situated families.

Kevin Carter will circulate an outline of the Q-Group's final recommendations document before the December meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.