

Spirituality / Worship Commission  
Notes of Feb. 19, 2018 Meeting by Kevin Owens

I was at a table populated mainly by folks with the Spirituality group and a few others. Some of the main points the group wanted to make were as follows:

- **Personal Contact:** The notion of a new parishioner receiving a simple welcome letter from the pastor was well-received and encouraged. One of the folks at the table recently moved to within the boundaries of St. Louise and promptly received a welcome letter from the pastor there, letting her know of the various offerings at that parish and generally welcoming her to drop in anytime to get acquainted, no obligation or commitment required. The general feeling at the table is that perhaps SFX has grown a bit complacent in this area.
- **Leadership View:** There was a very strong feeling at the table regarding the need for continuing training and turnover or succession in commission leadership, as mentioned by the speaker. The phrase "term limits" was bandied about. This was expressed in terms of a need for "intergenerational mentorship" and similar concepts, the sense being that the old guard needs to be educating, teaching, and mentoring younger parishioners to foster their involvement in and engagement with parish life and leadership within this commission structure and otherwise. One of the folks expressed some angst over the fact that no one knows who is on the PPC, how the PPC members are appointed, how it operates, what it does, and so on. One went so far as to suggest some type of caucus selection process for PPC membership whereby those wishing to serve on it provide some type of statement of interest and qualifications so that the parish as a whole could participate in the process of selection of PPC members.
- **Parish Vitality:** Many at the table expressed concern over dwindling attendance at masses. All felt that a more aggressive plan and program for welcoming new area residents is needed to help boost mass attendance and parish registrations. Many commented on the fact that all of the other community churches publish their mass schedules and the like in the local papers, but SFX does not. Many also noted that when they visit community businesses, restaurants and the like, they see ads or postings from other area churches with service schedules, news of current events, and so on, but never SFX. It was strongly felt that SFX needs to do more of this, i.e., be out there marketing, in order to remain vibrant and viable.

That pretty much sums up the highlights of my table's conversation. It was an enthusiastic bunch, and had the final buzzer not sounded, I think they would have continued the conversation for a good hour!