

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: April 17, 2024 – 6:30 pm

Notes By: Padge Haas

Attendees: Father Fabián Rodas, Joe Herro, Alanna Wilgus, Joe Schueller, Kelly Ciriacks, Padge Haas, Sandy Schmitt, Tom Zimmerman, Julie McKendry, Carol Polivka, Suzanne Silman, Rachel Blackwood, Larry Barbian and Karen Bartel

Excused: Audrey Szews and Mike Smrz

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m. with an opening prayer by Julie McKendry.

The agenda was approved.

Committee Reports:

Home and School: Rachel Blackwood reported their upcoming meeting would be held soon.

Formation: Larry Barbian reported that a young married couples had a first meeting to discuss plans for their group. He said that plans are being worked on for Corpus Christi which is June 1st and 2nd this year. Larry said the committee is working on a speaker or two for the second phase of the Eucharistic Revival. The theme of the next phase is Mission. The Alteration program, "The Teaching Mass," led by Audrey Szews and Cathy Rakers, just finished. Colleen Rooney also has many activities planned for the summer as part of the Child/Youth Ministry.

Finance: Julie McKendry stated that the committee is working on the budget. She also reported that Robbie Allbright will speak to the parish on the weekend of May 4-5 about the financial status of the parish.

Prayer and Worship/Art and Environment: Suzanne Silman reported that the Reconciliation Room is now redesigned. She also stated there will be a Patriotic Rosary held during the month of July. The date is still to be determined.

St. Vincent de Paul: Joe Schuller said he did not have a report at this time.

Buildings and Grounds: Carol Polivka reported the Five-Year Plan is in place. She said the committee is still trying to get bids for projects that will be using money from the Love One Another campaign. And she said the committee is still has opportunities to "adopt a

bed” and anyone interested is helping with this project should reach out to the committee to offer their assistance.

Stewardship: Julie McKendry stated that during May different ministries will be highlighted in the bulletin. This will be to further educate parishioners on what the ministries do so that they can become more involved in what is of interest to them. She pointed out that photos pique folks’ interest. Also, the subject of Communion for the Home Bound was discussed. We need to revisit this area and establish a plan. A discussion followed. This will be worked on with Father Fabián leading the way.

Human Concerns: Karen Bartel reported the committee seems to run itself. She said the food pantry is held every month. The Repairers of the Breach is open longer than in the past. The Bereavement Committee is ongoing. The winter coat collection was very successful. The collection of baby items will be coming. Karen is talking with Father Gene’s Help about possible parish involvement. Joe Herro asked if there is anyway the Pastoral Council can help the human concerns committee. Karen said there is a need for additional help with the St. Ben’s meal program. There are announcements in the bulletin each month asking for cooks/bakers. Parishioners are encouraged to volunteer. Also, the sandwich ministry is held the second Thursday of the month. We are the only parish in the diocese that does this ministry. If you are interested in participating call Karen Bartel for further information. Karen did say that St. Joseph is a very generous parish, and it is much appreciated by the organizations we assist.

Athletics: Amy Ford reported that the Athletic Group is working on two major events to close out the school year. The first is the banquet on May 16th for the school and religious ed students in the school hall. The second is the St. Joe’s home track meet on May 25th being held at Carroll University.

Continuing Business

- A. Adoration Updates: Adoration is held every Thursday from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. And it is held on the first Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Reconciliation is now being offered during Adoration in the morning and evening times. Audrey Szews is working on an article about Adoration. Once it is complete Deacon Kurt will review it and it will be printed in the bulletin.
- B. Eucharistic Revival Updates: Sandy Schmitt reported St. Joseph Parish will have a procession for the feast of Corpus Christi on the weekend of June 1-2. Chris Multhauf and Colleen Ronney are working on this. Children from the school and religious ed will be in the procession.
- C. OKR Updates: Joe Herro reported that we have made very good progress on completing our OKRs. Also, the Youth Ministry group is brainstorming on what opportunities can be offered for the parish’s youth. The Pastoral Council will continue to work on objectives for the parish and measure their results, possibly picking up new ones as the year progresses.

New Business

- A. **New Pastor:** Father Fabián announced the new pastor for St. Joseph will be Father Justin Lopina. He will begin in late June. This announcement will be in the bulletin this coming Sunday, will be placed on the website and it will be announced at the weekend Masses. Father Fabián said he needs to talk to Father Lopina about the parish. It was decided that he should be invited to the June 19th Pastoral Council Meeting.
- B. **Father Fabián Farewell:** Suzanne suggested having a cookout for the parish. Everyone in the parish will be welcome. More details will be in the bulletin.
- C. **Parish Calendar:** Julie McKendry stated this is necessary to keep on top of everything that is going on at the parish and to avoid conflicts. A meeting was set for Wednesday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center to set the calendar for the upcoming year. Each committee is asked to send a representative to this meeting to share the plans and dates for their committee.
- D. **Deanery Report:** Alanna Wilgus attended the Deanery meeting held on April 13th. She said that one of the things talked about at this meeting of surrounding parishes was the need to share with individual parishes how the money raised from the Love One Another Campaign was being used in their parish.
- E. **Event Ideas for the Coming Year (2024-2025):** Joe Herro said he would like to continue increasing the engagement within the parish. He said that sharing something big with another parish is always helpful. He suggested a national speaker, possibly one for adults and one for youth. This will take lots of advanced planning, so sometime in 2025 would be a good target. He felt winter was not the best time to do this. Saturday would be a good day. Subjects that were mentioned were parenting, social media, and theology vs. science. He said a good website for searching is www.CatholicSpeakers.com.
- F. **Pastoral Council:** Joe said he would like to see other Pastoral Council Chairmen gather to share ideas. He mentioned St. Dominic, St. John Vianney, St. Agnes, St. Mary's Visitation and St. Luke as possible collaborators.
- G. **Engagement Within the Parish:** Joe stated he felt Colleen was doing a good job with the youth. There are many opportunities being offered to our youth. Joe was encouraged that there have been a couple of meetings for young adults. This is an area to keep working on.
- H. **Closing Remarks by the Pastor:** Father Fabián said the most important thing is to seek God! He said Jesus was always looking for lost sheep. This is good to think about.

Miscellaneous

- A. Joe thanked everyone for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with a closing prayer.
- B. Next Pastoral Council meeting will be May 15, 2024, at 6:30 p. m.