

# **ST. AGNES PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

**6:15 p.m.**

**Present:** Fr. Sergio Rodriguez, Perry Szuminski, Jackie Ellingen, Tanya Bissen, Cindi Singer, Jimmy Matthews, Greg Retzer, Lesley Chisholm, Butch Brockman, Tom Ortman, Tracy Wallschlaeger, Ann Davis

**Absent:** Jean Sekula, Dave Nadolski

**Guests:** Paulette Szuminski, Shelly Fellin, Jeanette Cordoves, Darlene Kocher, Paula Pikula, Roman Pikula, Karen Knurr, Gerry Gross, Linda Barrington, Ken Schroeder, Emily Peiffer

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**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:18 p.m.

**Opening Prayer** - led by Perry

## **Review/Approve Council Minutes**

The September minutes were approved by consensus.

## **Chairperson's Report**

Perry welcomed our guests from the other committees and asked them to send their meeting dates, sub-committee rosters and minutes to the secretary of Pastoral Council.

## **Pastor's Report**

Fr. Sergio wants to be informed before any decisions are made in committees. He wants to support all our work and attend as many meetings as he can. He cares a great deal for our parish and will inform us of any changes to come.

## **Old Business**

1. Chili Cook-Off - The Chili Cook-Off will be held Saturday, January 13, after the 5:00 Mass. Tanya collected a list of volunteers to make chili as well as to help with other tasks that evening. She is the main contact of communication.

2. Youth Representative to Pastoral Council – The Christian Formation Committee will work on creating a process for selecting a youth representative for Pastoral Council since the representative must be selected by youth peers. Jackie confirmed with Shelly that the age requirement is 14-18 and they must have parents who are registered parishioners. The goal is to have a process in place so that a youth will be ready to begin serving on the Pastoral Council by September 2024.

## New Business

To improve communication between Pastoral and Finance Council and the other main committees, we requested a representative from each committee to attend our October meeting having discussed the following questions at their regular meeting earlier this month. Summaries of their responses are below.

### Questions:

1. What do you believe is the purpose of your committee?
2. How can Pastoral Council support you to help serve the parish?
3. What can we all do to help get more parishioners involved in your work?
4. How do you envision expanding your mission?
5. What are your top 3 goals for this fiscal year?

### Responses:

#### Christian Formation:

1. Their purpose is to organize and facilitate formation for all ages.
2. They would like help promoting their committee with the goal of getting new members and an eventual chairperson.
3. Pray for increased membership and extend personal invitations to join.
4. They would like to train more leaders and use the convent space to assist with evangelization.
5. Top 3 goals - increase prayer among parishioners, increase Mass attendance, invite people to become intentional disciples.

#### School Advisory Committee:

1. Their purpose is to promote and sustain the school as well as review policies and procedures.
2. None
3. They would like to see more volunteers from the Parish.

*Through discussion it was recommended that there be more communication from the school to the parish about their activities via the bulletin, website, or email.*

4. They would like the scouts to be able to sell their fundraising products in the lobby after Masses and are checking with the Archdiocese as to whether or not it is allowed. To increase the presence of the school with the parish, Fr. Sergio would like school students to serve in the main liturgical roles at a weekend Mass once a month.
5. Top 3 goals – get the by-laws for Home and School Committee, add Athletics as a sub-committee instead of Christian Formation since there are so few Christian Formation students in athletics, keep the younger students enrolled as they get older.

#### Stewardship:

1. Their purpose is to encourage everyone to use their time, talent, and treasure to help the parish.
2. They would like to see open communication among the committees continue and would like us to invite more people to join their committee.
3. We can all talk to younger families encouraging their involvement, get more involved in fellowship, and make connections with new people.
4. They would like to invite more people back to church.
5. Top 3 goals – increase committee membership, create and send out Thanksgiving postcards, get new banners for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

#### Liturgy:

1. Their purpose is to do the basics of Sunday Mass well and to have better liturgies.
2. They would like to have the support of the Pastoral Council with their new ideas.
3. They would like to see Fr. Sergio encourage more people to come to and volunteer at Mass and other devotions.
4. None
5. Top 3 goals – train liturgical ministers, teach parishioners why we do what we do at Mass, continue to be a welcoming parish.

*Through discussion it was recommended that whenever new prayers (such as the St. Michael prayer) will be recited regularly at Mass that the prayer be printed either in the Order of Worship or on cards in the pews.*

#### Human Concerns:

They did not meet in October. **ACTION – Ann will bring their responses to our November meeting to share.**

#### Finance Council:

1. Their purpose is to review and approve all aspects of finance and budget matters.
2. Finance and Pastoral Councils are a team and work well together with good communication.
3. Greg gave a brief summary of the St. Dominic project to start getting the word spread. Once they have more details, Finance Council will send out more communication related to the project.
4. None
5. None

#### **New Business/Announcements**

1. Paula announced that a new director of liturgical music was hired. Cathy Reich started on October 25 and will begin playing at Masses on November 4.
2. Karen passed out Ministry of the Month/Welcoming Sunday information.

3. After earlier comments during the meeting, Fr. Sergio announced that all Welcoming Sundays will take place in the lobby.

4. Roman said that the tabernacle will be arriving soon for the chapel in the former convent. He raised the question as to whether there should be a convent committee to plan for the use of the space. This committee would look at the vision and logistics and would need to include key people such as Fr. Sergio, parish staff members and Ella. **ACTION – continue this discussion at a future Pastoral Council meeting.**

5. After Perry suggested that we have an annual meeting like this with representatives from the committees every October it was agreed by consensus.

6. Fr. Sergio described his plans for celebrating the Feast of St. Agnes with a concert the evening of January 20 and a special gathering on January 21. It was suggested that a prayer card of St. Agnes be available. No decision was made.

**Conclusion:** All recited our Parish Mission Statement

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:52 p.m.

A tour of the renovated convent space followed the meeting for those who were interested.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, November 29, at 6:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Ellingen

Pastoral Council Secretary