

# **Our Lady of the Lakes Pastoral Council Minutes**

## **Monday, March 27, 2023**

### **1. Call to Meeting and Roll Call:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Peter Bemis

Members present: Peter Bemis, Chad Keller, Natalie Brochtrup, Bonnie Steffen, Antonette Zellmer, Jacob Birenbaum, Bryan Bichler, Marilyn Sabec, Rich Schwab, Jenny Leider, Deb Hamm

Absent (excused): Gary Feider

Guests: Leon Jacoby, Deb Poull, Cindy Oskey

### **2. Guest Comments:**

Leon Jacoby brought an article from the Catholic Herald to the council showing the dates that three former Parish Priests, Fr. Budde, Fr. Buya and Fr. Cerpich were being prayed for through the Archdiocese. He brought cards and a note for the council members to sign. The cards were provided by St. Lawrence Seminary. He then shared that Julie Bemis Binder is busy building the streets of Bethlehem at the Parish Center for the Night of Lights celebration in December. He said that the St. Patrick's Mass and Stations of the Cross were both well attended.

Deb Poull expressed thanks for the opportunity to speak to the Council. She thanked the Pastoral Council that there will be another listening session in regards to the use of the chapel in Dacada on April 21. Her comments included observations of the Pastoral Council and recognized the need for more volunteers within the parish. She acknowledged that meeting minutes are posted on the parish website, but questioned why Finance Council minutes are not posted.

Bill Jensen and Terri Schueller responded to this and explained that Finance Council meetings are closed meetings due to the confidential nature of some items discussed. Parishioners can request to meet with the council to discuss specific items, but are not allowed to access full meetings. Bill explained that according to the Archdiocese manual for Finance Councils, the council chair takes notes, but no formal minutes are taken. Terri advised anyone who has questions regarding the financials to contact the parish office and request an appointment.

Deb also commented that she would like to see parish meeting notices published on the website or in the bulletin. She requested that when meetings are posted, to please be more specific as to times so parishioners would be able to gauge when to attend. She also requested that agendas are publicly published prior to the meeting.

### **3. Fr. Feyereisen report/Dacada Update**

Terri Schueller and Susan Risch gathered information relative to the Fr. Feyereisen bequest and the allocation and use of funds. The information was given to the representatives of the Feyereisen family.

Bill Jensen explained that the assets of the parish are called Fungible Assets. He compared the monetary assets of the parish to a silo of grain. Farmers all contribute to the full silo, but once the grain is mixed, one wouldn't know what grain came from which farmer. With parish assets, especially with the parish merger, the monetary assets were combined. The parish report outlined the income from the bequest and the expenses of the St. Nicholas chapel.

The question was raised as to whether or not the funds from the bequest were restricted. When the funds from the CD were merged into the cluster parish, it was determined that the funds were not considered 'restricted'. (For example,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Fr. Feyereisen's estate was given to the Archdiocese restricted to St. Francis Seminary). The financial report that was provided shows that over time, the funds that became fungible assets of the church were less than the expenses of St. Nicholas Chapel when compared to revenue from the investment.

Terri explained that if there is a donation made with a restriction, that money is set aside for that specific purpose. Money generated from the rental of the rectory paid for the mound system on the property. The parish paid for the new holding tank for the chapel. Utility expenses are budgeted through Building and Grounds. At one time, there was a request for a proxy to upgrade the heating system at Dacada. That proxy was not approved by the Archdiocese with the reason that the parish needs to evaluate the use of the building. Currently, the Finance Council is seeking quotes for the heating system and the parish is waiting for these so they can submit a new proxy to the Archdiocese.

Terri indicated that, while the Finance Council at times needs to make difficult decisions, as a parish, we are stronger together. Many parishes are in the position of needing to close worship sites or reorganize. It would be in our best interests to work together to keep our sites functional and in working order while being fiscally responsible. She also indicated that Building and Grounds comprises the largest share of the budgeted funds as it encompasses the essential infrastructure necessary to keep worship sites open and functional.

Terri commented that if anyone wishes to review the report referencing the Fr. Feyereisen fund and the Dacada property, they should make an appointment with the Parish Office.

#### **4. Committee Report Highlights (see website for recent minutes):**

##### **A. Prayer and Worship- Bryan Bichler-**

- Holy Water bottles have been purchased.
- Deb Hamm led the service for Ash Wednesday as the Mass was canceled due to weather. Thank you to Deb.
- A new Ciborium and Chalice are being purchased.
- There will be a new cross in the garden by the Parish Center.

## **B. Christian Formation and Evangelization- Antonette Zellmer:**

- The Catholic Playgroup will start to meet on Apr 12, 2023. There was a suggestion to have the older siblings help out or provide an activity for them while the younger children are occupied.
- There was a suggestion to have a "contract" for families participating in Religious Education programs to attend weekly Mass. It wouldn't be a requirement, but would be a strong suggestion and a contract would bring this to mind for our families.
- Vacation Bible School will be held at OLL during the week of July 24-28 from 9:00-12:00 in the morning.
- The Lenten Service project this year for Religious Education is the "Undy 500" where undergarments are being collected for the House of Peace.
- There are 2 adults preparing for initiation into the Catholic Faith at Easter and 2 adults preparing for confirmation.
- The Lenten Series (Mass, Soup Supper and Talks by Fr. Steve) held in March were well attended.

## **C. Human Concerns - Marilyn Sabec**

- There was a hygiene products drive held from March 12-26th with proceeds going to the House of Peace.
- The Blood drive was held on Mar 20, 2023.
- Margaret Bemis volunteered to write and send Easter cards to people who are shut-in.

## **D. Stewardship/Outreach- Bonnie Steffen**

- The committee welcomed Elizabeth Jentges. They now have 6 members.
- A youth sewing camp is being organized.
- There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Apr 2, 2023 after Mass.
- The committee discussed ideas on how to utilize the gym space in the parish center. Potential ideas included youth volleyball and/or basketball.
- Kati Dimmer continues to explore outreach ideas and is working on implementing her ideas.
- The quilting group is making caftans and bags for the Night at Bethlehem.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2023.

## **E. Finance- Jenny Leider**

- The Fr. Feyereisen fund report was discussed.
- The parish Brat Fry was discussed. The idea of providing an event of less intensity was discussed. The brat fry is a profitable fundraiser but takes a lot of work.

There was a suggestion that if a particular committee wanted to raise funds, they could host a brat fry after Mass. The committee liaisons are advised to discuss with their respective committees to see if there is any interest in hosting a brat fry.

#### **4. Old Business:**

a. Collection Basket Update: at this time, the collection baskets will not be passed in the pews. The ushers will bring up the baskets with the gift bearers at the offertory.

b. Catholic Playgroup Update: Kati sent out a survey to families with young children. 5 families responded that they are interested in participating on a regular basis.

#### **5. New Business:**

a. Discernment for OLL Pastoral Council: May 16, 2023 will be the Discernment night for candidates discerning participation on the Pastoral council.

Natalie Brochtrup will talk at Mass on Apr 16, 2023

Nominations are due in the Parish Office by noon, Apr 24, 2023 .

There will be four seats to fill.

b. 25th Anniversary of OLL; The 25th anniversary of OLL is Jul 1, 2023 . The council discussed a potential celebration coinciding with the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on Jul 16, 2023 . The idea of having a brat fry for the event was discussed. Peter Bemis and Marilyn Sabec volunteered to co-chair the event.

c. 175th Anniversary of St. Nicholas in Dacada: Aug 20, 2023 . Mass will be held at 11:00 with Bishop Haines presiding. Events will begin at 10:00.

Denise Dimmer is working on a book.

The committee is looking for donations for auction items.

Online donations are being accepted and can be designated to the St. Nicholas fund for upkeep of building and grounds.

d. There will be an ecumenical service at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, Mar 29, 2023 . The theme is "Jesus is Sentenced".

**Opening and Closing prayers for next meeting:** Bryan Bichler and Marilyn Sabec volunteered to provide the opening and closing prayers respectively.

**6. Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM at OLL chapel beginning with the Joint Council meeting with the OLL meeting to follow (approximately 7:30 PM).

**7. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Marilyn Sabec, seconded by Rich Schwab. Meeting

adjourned at 9:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Natalie Brochtrup  
OLL Pastoral Council Secretary