

THE PARISH OF ST. EUGENE PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – [April 10th, 2023]

IN ATTENDANCE: Fr. Pat Cahill; Deacon Mike Zboyovski; Deacon John Langlois; Rick Lober (Chair, 6/24); Shawna Hoffert (Sec, 6/25); Mechelle Kobar (Parish Administrator); Buster Brown (6/25); Jesus Gamez (6/24); James Greene (6/24); Pat Irmén (6/24); Charles James (6/25); Ed Korte (6/24)

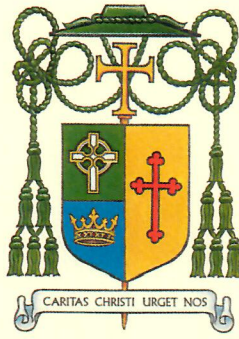
NOT PRESENT: Ashley Torres (Vice-Chair, 6/23); Laura Morales (6/25); Raul Cervantes (6/23)

GUESTS: Jeanne Cummings, Mary Selby, Bill Maloney, Sue Koesters, Kevin Sandoval (youth member)

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- Meeting was called to order at 6:38p and an opening prayer was said by Fr Pat.
 - March minutes (taken by R.Lober,) were presented; 1st by E.Korte, 2nd by P.Irmén; approved.
 - Update on Parish Life minister – Fr Pat
 1. Job posted (bulletin board in Parish Hall, online, Diocesan website)
 2. CVs are being submitted, reviewed; there is an interview committee
 3. Hopefully interviews to start by end of month; choose by May/early June (fiscal year begins 1 July)
 4. Walkyria Almonte helping in a voluntary position
 5. Announcements to be made at all masses this coming weekend
 6. 30hr/wk; \$30K/yr position for a lay person
 - Update on Diocesan response to Synod reports – Mary Selby, Jeanne Cummings
 1. 2021-2024 Graphs presented on the entire Synod Process; will hear back after Oct 2024 from the second Bishop Synod in Rome with a working document
 2. Mary and Jeanne asked if there is something they need to do in the meantime?
 3. Mentioned they were glad to hear announcements about certain events happening “because of the Synod response” from the parish
 4. Want to flag for the parish the first Bishop Synod in Rome this Oct, so that they may pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us and give us discernment
 5. Also would like a graphic in the bulletin to show the parish where we are in the Synod process
 6. The Continental document that came back agreed with the need for more adult education, the role of women’s involvement in the Church, role of celibacy in the Priesthood, need for a more dynamic and meaningful Liturgy and homilies, etc.
 7. Fr Pat said the bishop reported there will be an announcement in the bulletin about six priorities: renew and anchor our lives in the Holy Eucharist; etc., etc.
 8. E.Korte suggests a master list to inform the parish of all the things that have come out of the Synod results from our parish specifically
 - Update on Sanctuary Renovation – Fr Pat
 1. April 19th meeting with architect
 2. Context of the “Campus”; city ordinances require 50% open space and limit site plans; traffic flow will be a major issue; therefore, cannot really expand or build new buildings
 3. Discussed an off-site venue for large services like Easter/Christmas
 4. Dcn Mike requested Fr Pat ask the architect what our max people/parking would be
 5. Fire Marshall will be at St Eugene’s this month to give us max capacity/occupancy
 6. Traffic study has been called in by the architect (Architectural Design Studios)
 - Report on Parish Life Commission – A.Torres, J.Gamez, R.Cervantes (see handout)
 - Update from Youth/Campus Mass subcommittee – B.Brown, P.Irmén, A.Torres
 1. Try to start once a month youth Mass and once a month campus (University) ministry Mass
 2. Charles is in touch with the Student Life office at UNCA to find/try to connect with students, and find a location to implement

- Parish Council Mass announcements & May council elections – R.Lober
 1. Open until April 30th for nominations; in a position to add more people to the council
 2. Forms on the table under the board next to the suggestion box; and forms available at the parish office
- Brief on Parish Dinner Groups – R.Lober
 1. 57 participants volunteered for this round
- Peace & Justice/Care of Creation Update – Sue Koester, Bill Maloney
 1. Trying to get ACS more involved
 2. Diversity – want to sit down with the key players in the Hispanic community to get more involvement
- Suggestion Box – S.Hoffert
 1. Cynthia Gibbs shares a concern about the Stations of the Cross paintings in the Sanctuary
 2. Jack Witzel suggests a railing on the steps of the Adoration Chapel
 3. Karen Bradley by email to Rick: in re to Holy Week, thanks to Hispanic community for their organization and help
 4. Ed Sheridan 60th anniversary as a priest coming up; can office be a collection site for cards, etc. (Karen also)
 5. Website did not work for second collection; how do we ensure that this works (Karen also)
- Other Business or Upcoming Events
 1. J.Gamez brings a request from a parishioner to use our Parish Hall for an Spanish-language AA meeting once/twice a month
- Closing Prayer was said by Fr Pat and meeting was adjourned at x:xp.
- Next meeting: Will be on May 8th, 2023 at 6:30p in parish hall or ACS meeting area.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Shawna Hoffert. *If you have any questions or need additional information about anything on the minutes, please reach out to a Parish Council member. All Parish Council members' information is posted on the wall in the Fellowship Hall.*



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 16, 2023

Prot. No. B 169/23

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ, our hope, has risen. Peace be with you.

Like Thomas in today's Gospel, surrounded by a world of doubts and uncertainties, we have experienced the Lord in our midst, and proclaim with Easter joy, "My Lord and my God!"

This past year Pope Francis invited us to participate in a global synodal process in which we shared our faith, fears, hopes, and concerns. Although the national Catholic participation rate was only slightly above 1%, the Diocese of Charlotte exceeded the national average. After prayerful discernment and having listened to the lay faithful and the clergy of the diocese, I would like to share with you six pastoral priorities moving forward.

First and foremost, I earnestly desire all to renew and anchor their lives in the Most Holy Eucharist. Busy lives bombarded by distracting and worldly messages can only truly find the peace for which they yearn in the paschal mystery.

Second, while strengthening our communion with Christ, we must in turn allow Him to strengthen the communion within our families and the Church. Unlike the secular world in which we live, the Church cannot allow herself to be fractured by partisanship. The forces that seek to divide are not greater than the Holy Spirit who unites. We must follow Our Lord who prayed at the Last Supper, "that they may be one, as we are one."

Third, as a family of faith we must inspire the youth to find their home in the Church. Inherently drawn to authenticity, it is our responsibility to speak to the meaning of a true Christian life.

Fourth, in a time of moral confusion, we must inspire lives of personal holiness highlighting the beauty of chaste love.

Fifth, we must learn to proclaim the faith in a digital age, that we may better evangelize a culture teeming with secular and contrary messages.

Sixth, we must meet the challenges of an ever-growing diocese. In just 50 years the Diocese of Charlotte has grown from 34,000 Catholics in 75 parishes to more than 500,000 Catholics in 92 parishes and missions spread across 46 counties.

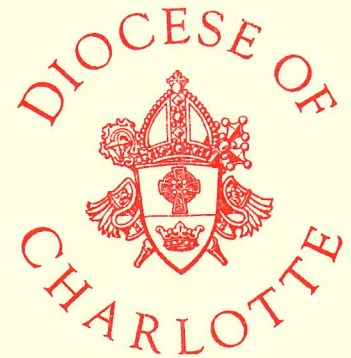
As a diocesan family, relying upon the grace and mercy of God, I ask for your help as I shepherd the diocese to meet the challenges of our day. Finally, I entrust these pastoral priorities to the maternal care of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God, our diocesan patroness.

May the peace and joy of Easter be with you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte



Pastoral Priorities

Six areas of focus:

(Holy Eucharist) Renew and anchor lives in the Holy Eucharist

- USCCB Eucharistic Revival pastoral initiative
- CLT Synod Listening Sessions
 - Strong sense of presence of Christ through the Mass, adoration, Holy Communion and Confession
 - Challenges include: distracted and busy lives making it difficult to pray, living in a counter culture, one which does not embrace the cross that is at the center of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

(Communion) Strengthen communion with Christ, within families, and within the Church

- CLT Synod Listening Sessions
 - Strong emphasis on the importance of family and the community of the Church
 - Challenges include: cultural and language barriers, confusion and division surrounding hot button topics such as abortion, same-sex attraction, gender, role of women in the Church, and the liturgy of the Church. These hot button issues lead the faithful to hostility and not toward charity.

(Youth) Inspire youth to find their home in the Church

- CLT Synod Listening Sessions
 - There is a clear and shared priority to reach out to the youth to help them find their place in the Church.
 - Challenges include: the need for more outreach after Confirmation, recent history of abuse combined with a lack of ecclesial unity impugns the authenticity needed to attract the youth.

(Personal Holiness) Shine light on the beauty of chaste love and personal holiness

- CLT Synod Listening Sessions
 - There is a sincere desire to draw personally closer to the Lord.
 - Challenges include: a need to address the challenges people are facing in their personal lives; the secular world is causing great moral confusion.

(Evangelization) Proclaim the Faith in the digital age

- CLT Synod Listening Sessions
 - There is a sense that we should be courageous and bold in giving witness to the Gospel, to reach out beyond the confines of a parish.
 - Challenges include: fear of social pressures, a profound tension between the faith and the world today, strong secular forces, cultural and language barriers

(Growth) Prepare for future growth

- CLT Synod Listening Sessions
 - The population of the diocese is growing, and there is a need for churches and places that can accommodate our current and future needs.