

**St. Eugene Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Minutes – 3/13/23**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Fr. Pat Cahill; Dcn Mike Zboyovski; Deacon John Langlois; Rick Lober (Chair, 6/24) Buster Brown (6/25); Raul Cervantes (6/23); James Greene (6/24); Charles James (6/25); Ed Korte (6/24); Jesus Gamez (6/24); Pat Irmien (6/24); Laura Morales (6/25)

**NOT PRESENT:** Ashley Torres (Vice-Chair, 6/23); Shawna Hoffert (Sec, 6/25); Mechelle Kobar

**GUESTS:** Sue Koester, Bill Maloney

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**Agenda item #1:** Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

**Agenda item #2:** Approval of minutes – Motion by James G, seconded by Buster B. Motion passed.

**Agenda item #3:** Fr. Pat gave a recap of the parish-wide meeting held on March 5<sup>th</sup> regarding financial status of the parish and preliminary planning of Parish Campus Project. He discussed the possibility of having an annual parish campaign related to expansion of the campus facilities. He also discussed such a campaign to eliminate the remaining 2.4 million debt (1.2 million for school and 1.2 million for parish) or delaying a debt reduction campaign since the debt is a 10-year loan.

Fr. Pat also discussed consideration of which major capital improvement might be prioritized. He said that based upon past campaign history, expansion of the parish Sanctuary to accommodate the continuing increase in parishioners may be the priority project. James G. asked about the possible Parish Life Center which was mentioned on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Pat described that project as well as the expansion of ACS. ACS expansion would involve removing old 63 wing of the school and building a 2-3 story addition for more classrooms for students. This would allow for at least two grades from Grade 1 through 8.

Ed K. suggested a 5-year plan development be conducted to guide such a project and Rick L. mentioned perhaps having a “Master Long-Range Plan” to include the entire parish campus. There was some discussion on potential City of Asheville commercial zoning requirements for any new major construction. Generally, the Council supported the concept which remains in a very preliminary stage.

**Item #4:** Fr. Pat advised that Melissa Stewart, Vice-Principal at ACS, has spoken with ACS parents, who are willing to help host a Coffee & Donuts hour from 10:15 – 11:15 on Sunday mornings on a monthly basis. There are two such events scheduled – April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>. Buster B. advised that he has also spoken with Melissa and Tracy Jedd to have 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade ACS students and high school students involved in this parish social hour.

**Items #5 & #6:** Ed K. provided copies of the Evangelization & Communication Commission Ministries Report. Ed K. also briefed the Council on areas in which the individual ministries were working well, and he suggested ways to improve upon some of the ministries which fall under the Commission. Examples included using the Bulletin to advise parishioners of available ministries and having an annual addendum to the Parish Directory which would include new parishioners. Another point of emphasis was the need for a Ministry Fair to inform and attract parishioner involvement in all the ministries. Fr. Pat and the Council supported hosting a Ministry Fair in the Fall 2023. Finally, Ed K. mentioned the need to staff a Special Events Committee to handle such parish events.

Pat I. inquired about the status of the new Parish Life Minister position. Fr. Pat advised that Walkryia Almonte was unable to accept the position. He already has a job description prepared and will be posting the opening for position on the website, Facebook, the diocesan website, etc. The budgeted annual salary range is approximately \$30,000 - \$40,000.

Finally, the Parish Life Commission Report was rescheduled for the May meeting.

**Item #7:** Rick L. advised the Council that nominations for the parish council would be accepted in April. Notice of the nomination period will be posted in the Bulletin. Also, there were currently a minimum of two open positions. He also mentioned that there was a slight imbalance on the rotation schedule. Buster B. suggested we add additional council members to address the issue. Fr. Pat and the Council agreed to open 3-4 council positions this year.

**Item #8:** Sue Koesters provided a report on the Peace, Justice & Care of Creation Ministry. She advised there are two upcoming events scheduled (“Overcoming Racism – Station of the Cross” on Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Sanctuary and “Ecological Way of the Cross” on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Friendship Garden). Sue also advised that Bridget Hepler is working with Suzanne from the Chaddick Foundation which has given a \$1,000 grant for the Friendship Garden. Additionally, the Blue Ridge Audubon Group has offered help with landscaping for the garden.

Bill Maloney advised that they will be holding a Strategic Planning Committee meeting to set new goals for major Care of Creation initiatives/projects. James G. asked about the return of the Labyrinth for Lent. Sue K. will check into it.

**Item #9:** Ed K., Buster B. and James G. gave a briefing on the ACS 8<sup>th</sup> graders who hosted a luncheon presentation for parish council members. The topic was the Life of Father Vincent Capodanno, a Maryknoll priest who worked in SE Asia, including Vietnam during the war. The students did a “wonderful job” capturing the essence of his devoted ministry which ultimately led to his death.

**Item 10:** Rick L. gave an update on the Safety & Security Committee. One of the current priorities is to create a cadre of parishioners, perhaps hospitality ministers, who would receive training in use of CPR/AED. He suggested potentially 15-20 initial participants. Costs for

American Red Cross certified training in the area ranged from \$50 per student to \$128 per student. Paula Kotz, who recently conducted such training for a small group of parishioners, charged \$50.00 per student with an additional \$20.00 for those seeking a certification card. The Council supported the idea and Rick L. will work with Fr. Pat and Mechelle to determine its feasibility.

Rick L. also advised that, due to several near accidents, a larger ONE WAY – DO NOT ENTER sign should be posted in the main parking area along with a periodic announcement before Mass. It was also suggested that cones remain in place to partially block the EXIT way of the lot from 7:30 until after the 11:30 Sunday Masses.

**Item # 11:** One suggestion to not leave the Day Chapel door open after Mass due to cold conditions. Rick L. will handle.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Buster B. suggested special recognition for Frank Dozier, Sound & Technology minister, for his nearly 40 years of service to the parish. Fr. Pat and the Council agreed. Buster made a motion to have Fr. Pat send him a letter, along with a Certificate of Appreciation, which was seconded by Charles J. The motion passed.

Buster also proposed having a youth Mass on the weekend. James G. suggested a committee work on the idea. Buster, Pat I. and Ashley will be the committee working on a return to a youth Mass.

Lastly, some Eucharistic ministers had inquired about a return to offering both species during Mass. Generally, the Council believed it may be premature, due to health concerns, and it would require new training for current ministers. Fr. Pat may consider it again in 2024.

The meeting was concluded with a prayer at 8:10pm