

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 6, 2022 Noon to 2:00 PM
Egg Harbor Office

Present:

Fr. Tom Farrell, Deacon Tony Abts, Sharon Brabson, Jean Krebs, Angela Packard, Chris Schmitz, Mike Trebotich, Jim Schorer, Kathy Wolff

Reflection and Prayer: We each read sections of an Advent reflection and shared how we are balancing prayer with the business of the season.

Review and Discernment of minutes from October 2022 meeting: October minutes were approved as published. Minutes should be sent to Lorie who will send them to Kevin who will put them on the website.

Need to recruit new members for Pastoral Council: Sharon reviewed the need for officers and additional parishioners to fill liaisons' roles on Pastoral Council. The terms of current Council Chair and Secretary expire in June, 2023 if needed. Sharon will not serve another term, but she will remain on the council until December, 2023. Mike Trebotich has accepted the role of Vice-Chairman effective immediately. Sharon reiterated that the role of Vice-Chairman does not include the commitment to become chairman. Members expressed their gratitude to Mike for assuming this role..

Formation of a Nominating Committee: Sharon proposed formation of a nominating committee to fill current and future. All agreed with the strategy. Mike will lead this committee. Jim, Chris and Kathy will be members. Nominating Committee will meet soon to discuss the process for recruiting new members.

Discussion/questions raised:

How do we find candidates: a volunteer, a person with skills in communication and leadership?

How can a member at large help attract interested people? Discussion ensued regarding combining the commissioner committee chair's role with Council membership. This would help communication flow and give Commission Chairs a way to lead the respective committees to coordinate their roles with those of the Council and Parish. No decision was reached.

How many members should the council have? All agreed that 12 members was a good size.

Bylaws speak to the makeup of council:

- 3 Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
- 2 Representatives, 1 each, from Stewardship and Discipleship
- 2 to 5 at-large members
- 1 Secretary Trustee

- Fr. Tom and Dcn. Tony ex officio
- 5 liaisons who communicate between the committees/commissions and Council:

Family Life: Open

Island Representative: Open

CSR: Jean Krebs will step into this position

Education: Sharon will temporarily take on this role

Worship: Kathy Wolff

Council Plans to support and implement Mission Planning Goals

Members received an updated copy of the Parish Mission Plan and reviewed timelines for goals to be accomplished by the end of Q3 FY 2023.

Update on One by One Campaign:

Fr. Tom reported that at present the parish has received 105 gifts to the campaign totaling \$1,651,582 or 83% of the two million dollar goal set for this campaign. The upcoming weekend, December 10, is the last time when we will be talking about the campaign. Father noted that there are some people who are waiting to contribute to later in the year.

Entrust update:

Dcn Tony reviewed the three Entrust experiences in which Stella Maris parishioners and staff have participated to date. The first was held in May, a three day overnight retreat at the Abbey during which diocesan staff trained ten parishioners, including Fr. Tom and Dcn. Tony, on being missionary disciples. Following that, diocesan staff came to Door County in June and trained an additional group using the same three day format. Our most recent retreat was held for two days in Door County on a November weekend. Training was presented by diocesan and Stella Maris staff and parishioners.

Deacon Tony shared evidence of the impact that training in Entrust has had in the parish:

- 3 of the 7 adults currently in RCIA came because the Entrust training emboldened people to talk about their faith with others.
- There have been lots of stories about how the Holy Spirit acts in our lives, how “the Holy Spirit turned the lights on” for them.
- Deacon added that one of the characteristic signs of the Holy Spirit’s working is impulse: it could be in the middle of prayer. If we implement what we feel and find it’s filled with goodness and peace, then we know it was good.
- The next Entrust training is planned for May ’23, and it will contain elements of both the two-day and three-day experiences. The main takeaway from the two day retreat is that it felt rushed, so there needs to be changes in content or method.

Parish Mission Planning Team:

The planning team is no longer working because that group came together for a specific purpose and period of time. Now that the plan has been created, the task of implementing it belongs to the Pastoral Council. The plan does not mean that we have a list of new things to do. The point of the discipleship training is that we understand the need to do the same things differently.

In addition to focusing on training missionary disciples, the Parish Mission Plan also focuses on evangelization and improving Stella Maris's engagement with the community. Here are examples of changes in those areas that have occurred since people have attended Entrust training:

1. With respect to CSR: we have to make sure that outreach is meeting corporal AND spiritual needs. We need to ask if there is more that we could do.
2. Book club will be discussing He Leadeth Me on Dec. 19 and has invited the book club from Shepherd of the Bay to joining them as they discuss the story of Fr. Walter Ciszek, SJ, an American who was imprisoned in Russia for 23 years.
3. Post mass social gathering is one of the things that the new marketing committee is going to do
4. A group will begin providing lunches after funerals again.
5. Discussion that the "education commission" could be named "Faith Formation"
6. There is a group working on bringing former parishioners back—Lynn Polacek is the lead on that
7. Father will be hearing confessions in the evening at the church where mass was celebrated in the morning, including Fish Creek.

As Pastoral Council we should have a discussion about how we share this missionary discipleship with others. There are parts of the Entrust training that we could use with the Council or other groups.

Mike suggests that we streamline the plan. He will create a strawman of how the plan could be compressed and make it easier to understand.

Pastor's comments:

- Understanding Eucharist is one of Bishop Ricken's focal points—he has prepared a workbook to further this study.
- Fr. Tom has already met with some people about this focus; part of the reason for opening our churches during the day is to allow people to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
- On the 3rd Thursday of each month there will be an evening mass.
- By the end of the week the EH church update will be finished.
- The new season of "Chosen" is out at the theater.
- *Two Weeks before Palm Sunday an exhibit about miracles during and after consecration of the host to the living presence of Jesus will come to our parish.*
- *Father Tom shared the story of a young boy's seeing a tornado of angels at mass during the consecration.*

Closing Prayer: we prayed the “Our Father” and adjourned at 2:00 pm

Next meetings:

Jan 3, 2023: 5:30 Dinner at Alexanders for members and spouses

Everyone pays for their own dinner

February 7 Business Meeting Noon to 2 pm: Egg Harbor office

Minutes by Kathy Wolff

12.16.22; rev.1.2.2023

Approved Feb. 7, 2023