

**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday August 9, 2023, at 12:30 PM Egg Harbor Office & Zoom**

**Members present:**

Fr. Tom Farrell, Deacon Tony Abts, Lori Carlson, Deacon Kurt Grube, Heidi Keen, Tom Polacek, Kim Ristau, Chris Schmitz, Jim Schorer, Mike Trebotich, Kathy Wolff

**Welcome and Check-In:** Tom welcomed our new members, Deacon Kurt Grube, Kim Ristau, Lori Carlson, and Heidi Keen, and then he encouraged all to share something about themselves. Deacon Kurt was ordained at Stella Maris 16 yr ago and has been at 7 or 8 other parishes since ordination. Deacon Kurt and Nancy live in Sister Bay next to the church. Kriss and Jim Schorer have lived in Baileys Harbor for 24 years. Mike and Ronda Trebotich live next to the Schorers; Rhonda has become involved in Faith Formation. Deacon Tony and Diane have been in Fish Creek for 3 years; they have 2 children and will meet their sixth grandchild Aug. 28. Tom Polacek is the temporary chair of Pastoral Council as well as the chair of Stewardship. He and Lynn live in Ellison Bay. Lynn raises flowers. Chris and Pam Schmitz and their three children, ages 9, 7, and 3, live in Fish Creek where they enjoy being part of the community. Chris made his Confirmation this past Easter, and he will be teaching Confirmation this year. Kim Ristau moved to WI last fall. Lori has joined the Council as the representative of Washington Island where she lives on a farm. Lori Carlson described herself and husband Chris as “jump in and do everything people.” Lori had been a Unitarian, and she loves being Catholic. Lori and Chris feel at home here, and they are hoping for grandchildren. Heidi moved to Door County in October after having been here previously. She was a professional chef for some years and is now managing a home. She was born an atheist and converted in 2017; after that she attended Dominican University’s School of Theology and is about to submit her thesis. Heidi is grateful for our pastor Fr. Tom.

**Opening Prayer:** (Deacon Tony)

August is the feast of St. Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers. Dominic stressed the need to be involved in contemplation on scripture and meditation; the motto of the order is to pray, bless, and preach; he taught that all the work that we do needs to start in prayer. Deacon Tony challenged us to think about “‘tithe-ing’ our meeting time so that we reallocate more of our time together to prayer.

**Review and accept minutes of July 11 meeting:** Minutes of the July meeting were approved. Because the Council’s Guidelines state that unapproved minutes should be posted on the website, the Secretary will post unapproved minutes going forward.

**Liason Comments:** This is an opportunity for the liasons to update the Council on a matters that they feel the group should know about. Council minutes need not contain specifics of the liaisons’ reports. Deacon Tony clarified saying that the Pastoral Council should be engaged with the person who is leading the commission. Council has to strike the balance between details and big picture. The purpose of having liaisons is so that the council can support the

commissions' work. The four commissions are: Worship, Education, Living Justice, and Parish Life. Heidi will be the liaison to Worship; Lori will be liaison to Faith Formation.

**Stewardship & Endowment:** Tom gave an overview of the Stewardship Committee using Annual Report material. He told us that 340 out of 600 named units in the parish committed to taking part in one or more of the parish ministries this year; the number represents an increase from 30% of the households to around 50%. The next Stewardship event is 9/14/2023. The event will be hosted by the leaders of the parish. Attendance at this event is usually just under 100 individuals. Hosts of the evening are the Stewardship Committee, the Finance and Pastoral Councils, the Trustees, and the leaders of the parish's 4 commissions, committees, and Aligned Groups. The agenda will contain the same standing items as we had last year.

**Pastoral Council Development:** Review "The Seven Essential Elements of Parish Life" (as described in the Part II of the Revisioning Workbook) and determine if these could serve as the foundation for the Pastoral Council's FY 24 self improvement plan. These are the seven essential elements:

1. Evangelization...spreading the good news of Jesus
2. Worship...a communal witness to God, the presence of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit
3. Word...deepening of faith and passing it on
4. Community...drawing parishioners together to share life
5. Service...works of charity and justice
6. Stewardship...making the most responsible use of one's gifts of resources (3-T's)
7. Leadership...visioning, planning, empowering and evaluating

**Discussion:**

- The Council could take 1 essential element each meeting and discuss/discern how the Council could improve in that element. We need to be intentional about succession planning. If we are going to improve as a group, improving our planning skills is a way of getting better at this. The Pastoral Council does not have a chairperson at present, and presently there is no leader of the "Education" Commission. *Deacon would like to propose changing that name to "formation."*
- Jim re FAMily: there was a hope that there would be conversation about these FAMily events. Lori commented that she is not sure that people understand the parish mission plan; if they do not, why will they join?
- Planning to achieve the parish mission needs to be ongoing. The parish used to have an annual meeting of leaders. (TJP)
- We could reinstitute this practice; and explain how the parish works. (JS)
- Could we group all commissions altogether? (HK)
- We want to see attendance and membership increase. (TJP)
- The conversion of discipleship formation changes lives. Adult FF has undertaken discipleship formation in hopes that this training becomes leaven throughout the parish; evangelization/FAMily is designed to be part of the outreach for community engagement. The purpose is not revenue or increased membership. Social outreach

comes across as good humanitarian and we want our efforts to be seen as a result of discipleship. Some groups are only loosely connected with each other, eg Parish Life. Education is really on a roll.

- The purpose of liaison is to further the parish mission plan. (MT)
- The process of planning the mission started with data and listening: 37% Catholics and younger parishioners. (Dcn. Tony)
- Changes occur when things happen in liturgy. There are 4 H: hospitality, hymns, homilies.... (HK)
- Mike offered to come up with a model that we could use to make a plan. Deacon Kurt and Jim offered to work with Mike.

**General comments/questions:**

1. "Evangelization" has some work to do when they undertake welcoming people back after they have left the parish. Our parish is not the same place they left. Some have returned because of funerals and have been touched more than they expected.
2. Is the strategy to drive engagement?
3. We need to focus on the "why" of what we do.
4. What outcomes do we want?
  - a. Outcomes in PC and committees/commissions
  - b. Having people who are ready and willing to move into our seats.
  - c. Increase the number of parishioners and in revenue.
  - d. People will see a difference in the impact we have in the community.
  - e. Build planning into our annual calendar.
  - f. Involve the commissions and committees in the planning.

Are the missions of the parish's commissions aligned with the parish mission? The 7 essential elements of parish life are aligned with our parish mission plan.

Fr Tom: evangelization and worship

**Decision:** Mike will take the lead on designing a model that we can use to make a plan.

**Mission Planning Update:** (Deacon Tony)

1. Discipleship Formation
2. Evangelization
3. Community Engagement

**Pastoral Council Chairperson:** No one has volunteered to take this role.

**Pastor's Update/Comments:** Fr. Tom shared highlights of the trip to Fatima: seeing Pope Francis, attending Bp. Barron's mass, and being with thousands of people joined in prayer.

**Pastoral Council Meeting Schedule:** We anticipate **bi-monthly meetings at 4 pm w/ZOOM** on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will occur on October 25 at 4 pm. Subsequent meeting dates are these:  
December 6, 2023; February 7, 2024; April 3, 2024; June 5, 2024; August 7, 2024.

Minutes approved 10.25.2023

**Closing Prayer:** We closed our meeting with a prayer at 2:25.