

Maternity BVM

Pastoral Council Minutes

December 5, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Priscilla Dwyer, Tom Bailey, Ann Marie Brzeszkiewicz, Deacon Br. John Eustice, Steve Husak, Father Jason Nesbit, Father Moises Mesh, Randy Molthan, Pam West, Julie Worby, Kathy Yonke and Sherry Denault (staff/minutes)

ABSENT:

D'ete Cotsones, Karen Alvarez-Hunt

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm

Opening Prayer: Led by Priscilla Dwyer

MINUTES:

November 7, 2023, minutes were approved. All in favor and approved.

Please note the January meeting will now be Tuesday January 9th

FATHER'S CORNER

- Father reported that at the last minute, we decided to put up the Giving Tree. Next year we may want to look into Social Concerns commission to lead this effort. We had a parishioner in years past that spearheaded the Giving Tree but has stepped away since covid. We used the general charity envelopes to hang on the tree, with 4 options to designate where you want your money to go. There were people who put gift cards in the envelopes, like we used to do it. So, it may be something to think about bringing back in the future.
- Father stated that we are focused on meeting one more time with committees in December, then are beginning our preparations for Christmas and going into the new year.
- Father stated that he has worked with Father Moises on the Faith Formation Commission and Evangelization. They have quite a bit in store for the Eucharistic Revival with programming be planned.
- Father Jason reported that in January we will be formally advertising to hire a youth minister to serve our parish. Father stated he is working on a job description and wages etc. He is very grateful that young people are still here and involved. Teens are still calling and texting each other and filling the roles that need to be filled. Harvest Sunday was a huge success. Youth Led Liturgy is well attended. He wants to acknowledge the adults that are still there and getting them involved, but in order for our programming to return to a level of getting young people to go on retreats and tending to their faith formation etc., we need another worker in the field. More information to follow in January.
- Father Moises reported he will be leaving for vacation December 20th and will return January 13th. He is preparing for Holy Hours and Adoration. He will work with Julie to make a banner or poster that will include the topics that Father Moises will speak on. There will be 2 sessions: January 18 and 25th.

PRESIDENT/VP REPORT:

- **Tom's Big Rock.** Tom explained that "Big Rock" is a phrase to sum up something that we want to focus on that really important. As Tom was reflecting on this meeting at Jesus and the Eucharist, the table discussion was "When did you have a God moment". When did you really experience the Eucharist. Other people at the table had these great moments to share and great examples. He stated as they were talking, he realized he didn't have anything or knew what to say. Then Mickie Prault gave us Pope Francis Advent Reflections. Tom states, "It talks about being so busy, we are not watchful or prayerful. I'm sure in my life I've had those experiences, but I didn't notice them. I think our "Big Rock" is the Advent season."

COMMISSIONS REPORTS

PARISH LIFE (Pam West and Kathy Yonke):

- Pam reported Breakfast with Santa on December 3rd after 9am Mass was very well attended. Very positive responses. Kathy stated that people were so happy and helpful. Many stayed to help clean up that were not on committee or did not sign up to help, but just wanted to assist. Kathy stated it was a wonderful experience. Father Jason stated he enjoyed watching the kids all running around and talking to each other and the parents all visiting. Julie stated that they passed out papers with Christmas Masses on 1 side and an invitation to join the Christmas Children's Choir on the other side. She said they always send something out to invite them back to keep them coming to church.
- Priscilla requested Parish Life speak to their group to see if they would be interested in providing childcare at some of the nighttime events for Faith Formation and Evangelization. A 2-hour commitment. Priscilla stated that they could take turns, switch on and off. If we could have a call list of grandparents and parents of kids of that age. Pam stated she would be happy to bring it up, but most of the attendees are older and don't travel at night. Priscilla requested they brainstorm to see how we can accomplish that task. She said they are willing to work with them. It's been a difficult task to find and provide adequate childcare for the programs.
- Lunch and a Movie will be held again this week. Next week, December 14, will be the Christmas Party. The next Lunch and a Movie will be in January.
- Pam stated they will meet again in January to plan spring events.
- Julie stated they are looking at planning a "watch party" to watch Sister Clare's Perpetual Vows be livestreamed on February 11, 2024.

FAITH FORMATION (Priscilla Dwyer and Karen Alvarez-Hunt):

- Priscilla handed out double sided books called "*Your Guide for the Mass/Welcome to Our Church*" that were anonymously donated. The donor purchased 500 books after they visited a church last year and the books were in the pews. The books are 2 sided and she stated they would be wonderful to have these in our pews, as well. One side of the book explains what being Catholic is and explains the sacraments, all the different jobs in the church, among other important and interesting things, and on the flip side, there is a guide to the Mass. Priscilla reported that she gave books to her confirmation families. Steve Husak passed them out to Jesus and the Eucharist attendees and the Fishers of Men. There are extras for Father Jason to decide what to do with.

- Priscilla reported that Alpha video series will be moved to the fall of 2024 so that OCIA candidates can participate. They would like to add personal invitations for young adults to attend.
- Priscilla reported that she is waiting for the Habitat for Humanity Summer 2024 dates to come out so she can schedule a trip. She stated they may also go on a spring trip in 2025.
- Priscilla is inviting the confirmation students to Adoration in January 2024.
- During Lent, Faith Formation is looking to present “Lectio” series from Formed. This is a 10-week series and will go beyond Easter.
- An invitation was extended to attend Feed My Starving Children on January 4th at 9am with confirmation class and some high schoolers. Drivers are needed. 1 driver for every 4 students. Please contact Priscilla if interested.

ADMINISTRATION (Randy Molthan and *open position*):

- Randy reported that finances were in the green as of their last meeting. With the addition of a youth minister, that could change, but it is still a positive thing to add to our parish.
- Randy stated that he will be collecting data for the survey. Julie W. reported they have gathered information for the dashboard and will share with Randy to complete. Dashboard includes: Wedding, Funerals, Baptisms, First Communions, Attendance, OCIA, Sunday Collection numbers, and number of Parishioners. We will go back 10 years, 5 years, then every year in the last 5 years.
- Randy stated that information is being collected from the counters. The Youth Masses are our most attended week. October 2023 numbers are very similar to October 2022 numbers. We are in a positive direction since covid. Randy stated that bringing back more youth will help. The drop in attendance directly correlates with losing youth group when Patty retired and when we lost the school. All directing back to kids.

SOCIAL CONCERNS (D’ete Cotsones and Ann Marie Brzeszkiewicz):

- Ann Marie reported that she and D’ete met and went over what was proposed last month. They will be reaching out to different organizations in January to recruit.
- Ann Marie stated they are interested in bringing a speaker in for a one night only event. Julie stated that one-night events are usually well attended. Ann Marie reported they will begin researching topics now.

EVANGELIZATION and WORSHIP (Steve Husak and *open position*):

- Steve reported that Jesus and the Eucharist has 2 more sessions.
- Commission has met and will meet again next week to discuss Eucharistic Revival and the materials that go with it.
- Commission partnering in conjunction with Faith Formation in case they need them. Father Moises has been very busy with the planning of the activities for the Eucharist Revival and Steve stated that his commission is ready to jump in and help at any time.
- Steve shared a video with the council called “Dare to Believe” with discussion following.
- Steve reported he is leaving for the winter and will return in spring.

Meeting closed in prayer at 8:05pm

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, January 9, 2024 @ 7PM IN PARISH CENTER-

please note change in date for Janaury

Please mark your calendars for the first Tuesday of each month -2024

February 6, March 5. April 2, May 7 and June 4

(No meeting July and August)