

Maternity BVM Pastoral Council Minutes November 7, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Karen Alvarez-Hunt, Tom Bailey, Ann Marie Brzeszkiewicz, D'ete Cotsones, Deacon Br. John Eustice, Steve Husak, Father Moises Mesh, Randy Molthan, Pam West, Julie Worby, Kathy Yonke and Sherry Denault (staff/minutes)

ABSENT:

Priscilla Dwyer, Father Jason Nesbit

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Opening Prayer: Led by Father Moises

MINUTES:

October 3, 2023, minutes were approved. All in favor and approved

FATHER'S CORNER

- Father Moises reported the Jesus and the Eucharist program started Monday, November 6th. We had a good turnout with 39 participants. Father Moises stated he is very hopeful and that it is a good message. We need to continue to invite people to come, as many were from the Rescue Project, but was definitely a blessing to have so many participating. Julie stated that St. George Church shared the post on their social media to invite people to come, so we had someone from their parish participate. Father Moises said people left happy and are looking forward to next week.
- Father Moises reported that Jesus and the Eucharist is only the beginning of the Eucharist Revival. Father Moises has a calendar of events planned and approved by Fr. Jason, and he will be meeting with the Faith Formation commission. Every month, there will be an activity for the entire church, including going to school to teach about the Eucharist. We will have children's adoration and Holy Hours. We will have Youth and Adult Holy Hours. We have different ideas about Eucharist Revival that will be shared with entire church/congregation. There is a group that will be planning on going to Indianapolis to attend the National Eucharist Revival. Everything will be reported in the bulletin, and we will continue with activities for the year.
- Tom Bailey stated we need to make sure to invite and include everyone in these activities and to fall in love with God. Steve Husak said this Revival is to help us to take a fresh new look at the Eucharist and what it means to them and increase their love, practices and adoration. Steve Husak stated that people are excited about Indianapolis. A parishioner is hoping to bring a group.

- Father Moises reported that 22 prayer shawls were made in Knitting Club which will be delivered to Citadel and Bourbonnais Grove. These shawls were all made with donated yarn.
- Steve Husak brought up that fact that we need to get younger parishioners involved and to do that we need proper childcare, so parents can participate knowing their children are being taken care of. If we had a core group or committee of childcare providers, we can advertise “childcare provided”. That along with a meal, will bring more young folks. We will revisit this idea at another time. Br. John stated that his home parish in Nevada, they have a catholic faith-based group similar to MOPS, called MOMS. He stated they may have resources we can use. They host a women’s retreat and are very active.
- In Father Jason’s absence, Br. John updated us on Youth Led Liturgies, Youth Liturgy Planning and Youth Ministry. He reported we are still without a youth minister and will be moving eventually toward hiring someone to take on that role. The Youth Liturgy Planning Team has been meeting and we have young people responding and participating. Also, Priscilla and Maria are spearheading Harvest Sunday. Many efforts are happening, but we are aware we need to move forward in the near future on what our program will look like.
- Br. John also reported that he is meeting with some young adults on Sunday evenings. He reported there is a small group of 4 to 8 young adults, ages 18-35. Br. John stated that it is not organized, but he is listening and learning to find out their needs. Many ideas have emerged, such as having a movie, then discussion. They have many questions, which Br. John, Fr. Moises and/or Fr. Jason will answer when in attendance... There is definitely interest. Br. John had a meeting with 2 VP’s of Olivet, along with their Pastoral Minister, where they encouraged Br. John to be there and to consider Olivet an extension of our parish. We cannot do programming there, but we can be present there. Of the approx. 2100 students attending ONU, approx. 270 identify as Catholic, according to their applications when applying. 60 of those students are freshmen. ONU will allow us to send emails, once a month, to the Catholic students, but are restrictive with giving names of students. Br. John stated that ministry of presence is the best way. Hopefully in the second semester, the current young adults can help with outreach. Fr. Moises stated he has had many young students come to reconciliation.

PRESIDENT/VP REPORT:

- **How do we grow your commissions?** We have a small window of time where the calendar is not full, so this may be an opportunity to contact people. Kathy Yonke asked if we had any responses to the “Meet your Council” bios in the bulletin. Julie stated we did not have any. Kathy stated that she would not be involved if she had not been contacted personally. We all see that we need help, but we tend to read it and move on. But if you reach out personally, people tend to want to help. Father Moises reported that in Chicago, they would send a special invitation (not a form letter) to a meal and then have training immediately following. The invitation stated, “You are cordially invited to be a part of ...”. He said it worked wonderfully. Training Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality, any and all positions that we need. Br. John said we can even incorporate the need within the

homilies if the readings lend to it. Tom has asked Father Moises to speak to Father Jason to set a date to invite people into their home for a small get-together and to invite people to be members at large or on commissions. Father will check and let us know.

- **How do we support our religious leaders?** Tom shared around the Bishop Hick's Column that ran in a recent bulletin. One of the paragraphs read: "A priest is called to serve God and His people, and to assist his bishop in governing, teaching and sanctifying in modern times. It may seem like a priest is expected to be able to administer with an MBA, counsel with the spirituality of the saints, offer a love for the poor of Saint Mother Teresa, maintain the constant energy of a newly ordained priest, and resolve issues with the wisdom of a seasoned pastor." Do we sometimes expect too much out of our religious leaders? Being a priest is a 24/7 job 265 days a year, with mostly no breaks. What are we doing to support them? Do we support them as people? Do we invite them to games, dinner, a fun night out? Let us all reflect on that. They carry a lot of burden alone. Continue to reflect on this question so we can support them. Father Moises stated we need more people in the church and in the commissions. Father is so grateful for the volunteers that come early in the morning and help prepare for Mass. At St. Viator, Father stated that was all his responsibility, with no outside help, including washing the linens, and even to press the linens. Nonstop all day and all night. It's hard work and can be exhausting. Father stated he loves to be able to relax at the end of a long week, with no responsibility for a short time. Sometimes when he goes home to Belize, the Belize diocese is looking for him to work when he gets there, too. People will call to get anointed, to give prayers and blessings, and he gladly does it and will continue his job where he is needed. We all agree Father Moises is a true blessing to our entire parish. We are blessed to have him!
- Tom reported that Joe Ciaccio has resigned from the Parish Council due to health issues. We will need to fill 2 positions: Administration and Evangelization & Worship.

COMMISSIONS REPORTS

PARISH LIFE (Pam West and Kathy Yonke):

- Pam reported they had are planning Breakfast with Santa on December 3rd after 9am Mass. Mickie Prault has agreed to be Santa again this year.
- Trunk or Treat was very successful this year. We have lots of trunks and great attendance.
- Donut Sunday will resume again in the spring.
- Lunch and a Movie is being held 2 Thursdays a month. Pam reported that since she has retired, she has more time to help. She reported they average 20-25 people, depending on the weather. Participants are very grateful. She gave kudos to Patty for everything she does.

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

- No new report as programs are ongoing.

ADMINISTRATION (Randy Molthan and *open position*):

- Randy would like to move forward with a church wide satisfaction survey. It has been 8 years since the last survey. Tom stated that most of the items of concern from 8 years ago have been addressed. Tom shared the responses from the past survey. The surveys were divided demographically. Julie stated that the surveys were mostly filled out for those 60+ years or older. Most younger people did not fill them out. Men and women of different ages, along with teens. 5 different surveys. Randy would like to get the surveys condensed down. Randy stated in previous years, the first survey had the most responses, but last survey had a ¼ of responses.

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

- D'ete and Ann Marie have come up with many ideas but need help getting people on their commission to execute the ideas. Julie mentioned that they could come to Lunch and a Movie and invite the group of men and women to participate. Most of them are retired and are looking for something meaningful to do. Father Moises extended an invitation to speak to the Knitting Club, as well. Julie also stated she could put something in the bulletin to invite them to an informational meeting. Steve Husak also offered the Fishers of Men group, along with the Knights of Columbus, who are oftentimes looking for a mission.

Evangelization and Worship (Steve Husak and *open position*):

- No report at this time

Meeting closed in prayer at 7:57pm

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, December 5, 2023 @ 7PM IN PARISH CENTER

**Please mark your calendars for the first Tuesday of each month 2023-24
January 2, February 6, March 5. April 2, May 7 and June 4
(No meeting July and August)**