

Maternity BVM

Pastoral Council Minutes

September 6, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Karen Alvarez-Hunt, Tom Bailey, Ann Marie Brzeszkiewicz, Joe Ciaccio, D'ete Cotsones, Priscilla Dwyer, Deb Groth, Steve Husak, Father Jason Nesbit, Pam West, Julie Worby, Kathy Yonke and Sherry Denault (staff/minutes)

ABSENT:

Randy Molthan, Father Moises Mesh,

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Opening Prayer: Led by Steve Husak

MINUTES:

June 6, 2023, minutes were approved. All in favor and approved.

WELCOME and introduction of members:

We welcomed new members Karen Alvarez-Hunt, Ann Marie Brzeszkiewicz, Joe Ciaccio, D'ete Cotsones, and Kathy Yonke.

COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS:

- Parish Life: Pam West and Kathy Yonke
- Faith Formation: Priscilla Dwyer and Karen Alvarez-Hunt
- Administration: Randy Molthan and Joe Ciaccio
- Social Concerns: D'ete Cotsones and Ann Marie Brzeszkiewicz
- Evangelization and Worship: Steve Husak and *Open Position*
- Change: Stewardship has moved to finance

ELECTIONS:

- President: Tom Bailey: *All in favor and approved*
- Vice Chairperson: Priscilla Dwyer: *All in favor and approved*

REVIEW OF 2023-24 GOALS

- Reviewed Mission Statement and Vision Statement
- Discussed Statement of Core Values
- Reviewed Goals:
 - *Eucharistic Revival*: Goal is to increase Mass attendance. Our average attendance now is 650-750 per weekend. Identify key metrics to collect and analyze data and extend personal invitations.
 - *Missionary Discipleship*: Possible Mission Trips, Helping Poor, Prison Ministry, Door to Door, Mini Mosh.

- *Administrative and Organizational Challenge:* Strengthen the structure of the Pastoral Council, as well as the awareness of the council, with possible regular announcements from the pulpit, articles in bulletins. Discussed putting “Meet Your Parish Council” on social media to introduce the council to the parish. Father Jason will meet with each commission. Father also encouraged each commission leader to build a group of people to be on their commission to form a core group of volunteers.
- *Volunteers:* Discussed how to reach out and encourage others to use their unique talents to help build the church. Discussed increasing participation.
- *Strategic Planning:* Discussed developing a 3-5 year plan.
- *Ministerial and Outreach Challenge:* Need to create opportunities, especially for adults to participate more deeply in the life of the church, including Senior Outreach and opportunities for them to gather. Patty Bailey has many plans to do this.
- *In cooperation with the Wider Church:* Steve Husak discussed the National Eucharistic Revival. We are in the second year of this. Last year was the “Year of the Diocese.” This year is the “Year of the Parish.” Steve attended a retreat to review what is going on. Their message is a great opportunity to welcome people and to teach and remind people what the Eucharist is about. It has been since the mid 1950’s since we have had a revival, according to Steve. This revival is calling us to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and the Eucharist. There are videos available called, “Jesus and the Eucharist”, which is free, along with many written materials, that are also free. Steve stated we should share these in our bulletins and outreach. Steve stated there will be a Pilgrimage from all over the country that will meet in Indianapolis in July. When they get to Chicago, they asked all of us in the Diocese of Joliet to be there and cheer them on. Date and more information to follow. Steve stated they also asked if each parish could have a Eucharistic Procession on Corpus Christi next June. Steve stated they will speak with Faith Formation to see where they would like to go with that. Tom Bailey stated that there will be more than 80,000 people in attendance for this 5 day event to be held at Indianapolis Lucas Oil Field.

FATHER'S CORNER

Father Jason stated that this has been a very busy and productive summer. Father reported that our office had tremendous help from Linda Born from St. Pat’s Parish, who assisted us throughout the last several months. Linda kept our business operations going by taking on the role of bookkeeper. We then had a hiring process, where we welcomed Deb Groth as our new Business Manager. Father is very grateful. Father Jason also reported we welcome a new part-time secretary, Diane Kestel, who will work with Mary Beth side by side in the front office. Mary Beth Mathis will be part-time going forward and plans to work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Diane will work Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Br. John is also here in the office now as a Transitional Deacon, preparing for priesthood.

Father Jason said we had a great Camp Mosh this year. It is such a wonderful expression of our Mission Statement, getting up each morning with Word and Sacrament and then going out and radiating light to people. Camp Mosh is just a beautiful event. Father thanked everyone who was a part of it.

Father reported sad news in that our youth minister, Carrie Rink, tendered her resignation the first week of August. Father thanks Carrie for her service to this ministry. With a need of pastoral care for our teens, Father Jason's focus will be, on the parents and the teens. He said will officially make an announcement of our youth minister leaving and explain what we will do going forward. He would like to have a personal meeting with parents and a personal meeting with the youth to let them know how important Youth Ministry is to us here at Maternity BVM. We do not want them to think we have forgotten about them. Events will be announced soon, Youth Liturgy Planning is coming, Youth Led Liturgy will still be held, Harvest Sunday is on it's way! Father Jason announced that Priscilla Dwyer will lead Harvest Sunday this year and help with some service components in Youth Ministry, including planning some events for service. There are still many pieces to be filled. Father Jason stated that our Youth Ministry will not be vibrant unless with have parents and youth committed. This job is not just the job of the person or people hired to lead it, it is the job of all of us. We will get activities going and get youth involved. With the help of God, there may still be the opportunity to have a Quest retreat in the spring. Father stated his major focus is seeing us through youth ministry, so it doesn't get lost. This weekend, September 10th, is the Youth Liturgy Planning meeting and September 17, Youth Led Liturgy at 11:00am.

Father also reported that Staff Meetings are now being held regularly again now that everyone is more settled in.

COMMISSIONS REPORTS

PARISH LIFE:

- Pam reported that Family Fun Day was held August 13th. Kicking off with an outdoor Mass We also had bounce houses, a cake walk, balloon art, face painting and kids games. Hot dogs, chips, and snacks were served. A great time was had by all.
- Pam reported they will be meeting to plan Trunk or Treat and Breakfast with Santa.
- Donut Sundays are planned October 3rd and November 5th. These will be held on Family Mass Days.
- Julie reported that Patty Bailey will be planning a series with Seniors on Thursdays. Julie stated that last Lent, Patty hosted Lunch and a movie. They watched the series, The Chosen. It was so successful, that she will do something more this year. Patty will plan 2 Thursdays a month, possibly taking a trip, lunch, movies. Patty will fill in details at a later date.

FAITH FORMATION:

- Priscilla reported that Rescue Project 2.0 will be held September 17th thru September 22nd. It will look a little different as it will not be spread out over several weeks, it will one for 1 one only. Priscilla arranged for charcuterie trays to come every evening. Priscilla reported that they will have light snacks and drinks, followed by the video, then discussion. 25 people have already signed up. Priscilla reported that her Confirmation students will be attending. She is excited to open it up to Bishop Mac Confirmation class, as well. With youth and adults in attendance, this will be an intergenerational mix. Hoping they will all come back.
- The Eucharist Revival: Year of the Parish is coming! Mickie Prault and Priscilla put together a week of community activities. This will be held the same week as Rescue Project 2.0, September 17th through September 22nd. Maria will help promote and get materials out to families both in school and RE families. It will also be in the bulletin and e-newsletter.

Priscilla will ask everyone to post pictures with hashtag #mbvmchurch or send to church so we can share on social media.

Sunday: Attend Mass with your family. Priscilla asked Father to talk a little about the Monstrance at Mass and the focus of the Eucharist.

Monday: Make a Monstrance Day with your family.

Tuesday: Take Note Tuesday. Write a note to someone to encourage them or invite them to church.

Wednesday: Wisdom Wednesday-an article will be offered about the Eucharist.

Thursday: Formed video will be offered.

Friday: Family Friday-gather for a meal with your family.

Saturday: Sacrifice Saturday-Like Lent, what can you sacrifice today?

- Father Moises will possibly host 7 weeks of Eucharistic Revival videos.
- After Easter, when the OCIA candidates become in full communion with the church, we will continue their study of Catholicism with Alpha. Mickie and Priscilla attended the training. Karen will attend, as well. Ian Cole is trained in Alpha, as well. This program will be like the Rescue Project last year, where meals and childcare will be provided.
- In the Fall of 2024, Faith Formation will present a 9 week series called Formed, Presence of the Eucharist.
- Priscilla reported that next summer, she and her husband will bring a group on a Habitat for Humanity Trip. The trip dates for 2024 are not out yet, but as soon as they are, she will make an announcement. They will open that up to the parish, for another Faith Formation opportunity: a mission trip to serve others.
- **ADMINISTRATION**
 - No report at this time

SOCIAL CONCERNS

- No report at this time

Evangelization and Worship

- No report at this time

Capital Campaign Update

Steve Husak reported that the church parking lot will not happen until spring. Most of the other projects are almost complete. We spent \$1 million out of the \$1.7 raised. The committee is still meeting. Julie reported that we raised \$1.7 mil and payments to date are approx. \$1 mil. We ended up received over \$16,000 in unexpected payments from parishioners who did not make a pledge, yet still gave. 29 donors gave more than they pledged.

Father Jason said more good news on the financial front. On July 1st, 2022, we did not know what we were going to do. As this fiscal year ends, not only did we raise a great amount of money, we were also able to pay cash for these projects. Our operational bottom line did not miss a beat. The good news is it came in pretty even with what was raised the year before. After asking so much from our faithful parishioners, incredibly a majority still gave their normal, regular contributions. How wonderful! So many times, when we ask people to give to special things, they will sacrifice one for the other. Meaning we will lose a little of our operational

funds. We have great parishioners. D'ete Cotsones shared she loves having the envelopes in the pews. She stated it is a great idea for people just to grab an envelope anonymously and put in the collections basket. Great option!

Father Jason said the window project is coming along. The window company has been incredible. They quoted us a number and in spite of all they have had to do to fix them, they are keeping us pretty close to the original quote. Although there will be an extra fee for the window at the very top, where there was a piece of glass just hanging and ready to fall out. It was not part of the original quote. Father said they have excellent craftsmanship.

Julie stated. if you have a chance, take a look at the Capital Campaign video from last month, where you can see the windows side by side to see the incredible craftsmanship, including the rest of the Capital Campaign projects, from the school parking lot to the windows, to the roof on the school. Father stated he even mentioned some other things that were unexpected, such as the air conditioning issues, which are fixed now.

Presidents/VP Corner

No report

Meeting closed in prayer at 8:16pm

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, October 3, 2023 @ 7PM IN PARISH CENTER

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