

Meeting Minutes
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
Monday, September 27, 2021

PPC Present: Father Stan Mader, Beth Kalb, Tom Konrardy, Ashley Navratil, Mark Vogel, Dale Willenbring

Trustees: Beth Whitaker, Amy Williams

Administrator: Bonnie Delaney

Recording Secretary: Jean Konrardy

Documents distributed:

- Agenda
- Commission Reports: Parish Office/Pastoral Care (Rosetter), Faith for Life (Gelhar and Loscheider), Parish Life (Salz), Communications (S. Richards), July 2021 Dashboard (Finance), Worship (Konrardy), School (B. Richards), Synod (Konrardy)
- St. Joseph Finance Project Tracker
- Results Leadership Workshop - Eight Essentials
- School Theme Report
- Options for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Project Registration Intake Form

Call to order at 7:30 pm

Commission Update: School (B. Richards)

Presentation on progress of St. Joseph School Themes.

- Parish Goals & School Implementation Plan
- Outline of Archdiocese Religious Education:
 - Promoting Knowledge of the Faith (Grades 6-8): Helping children to know, understand, and integrate Catholic beliefs.
 - Liturgical Education: Helping children to know how the church worships through full, active, and conscious participation in liturgy
 - Moral Formation: Helping children to recognize, understand, and express that each person is called as a disciple of Jesus to love, forgive, and serve others.
 - Teaching to Pray: Helping children to learn to pray the way Jesus did: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, filial confidence, supplication, and awe.
 - Education for Community Life: Children experience community life as an apprenticeship of faith which cultivates values, relationships, and ecumenical dialogue.
 - Missionary Initiation: Assist children to become disciples of Christ, present in society, and able to witness their faith.

- Options for the Poor & Vulnerable
- Plan to increase student involvement in weekend masses. Bishop Cousins will be here Wednesday, January 26 for mass, the week before Catholic Schools Week.

Upcoming October Commission Updates

Faith for Life – J. Loscheider & V. Gelhar

Operational Items:

1. July minutes approved via email response.
2. Questions/comments about Commission summaries:
 - Still awaiting School Board minutes, will be out shortly.
 - Noted, Communication Coordinator requesting administrative help.
 - Finance Report was clarified regarding tuition payments.

Leadership Workshop Results

Over all a good day with good information passed on and good information received. Survey was positive to do the workshop again. Participants enjoyed hearing each other and getting all the different types of groups together. Suggestions for improvement included preparing some items ahead of time for review prior to meeting and some demographic graphs were a challenge to read when copied and enlarged.

Takeaways:

- 1) A lot of growth north of Cologne and east of NYA from school perspective.
- 2) Parish/School is gifted with financial opportunities in our community.
- 3) Request for more support staff. Plan to evaluate tasks, present and future, who does what, and develop criteria for needs. Position of Communications Director has grown since job created.
- 4) Challenged with where to office people.
- 5) Increased revenue this past year due to covid relief funds – contributions down some this year. Previous years showed 7 to 10% increases.
- 6) Increase involvement of school youth in the mass.
- 7) How to reengage volunteers with ongoing Covid.
- 8) Engaging generational groups, with a focus on millennials.
- 9) Responding to synod results – resolutions will be processed in early June (Pentecostal weekend). Letter will come out in November (Christ the King weekend). The current parish results of small groups will soon have results to share. Currently in the midst of consecutive weekly meetings with survey feedback. There will be a total of six weeks of meetings of various small groups.
 - Outreach currently includes cooperation with other parishes and Love Inc.

Plan to take results of Leadership Workshop and develop content for new parish themes to take effect next July, for 22-23. The themes will be completed by December 1 and circulated to staff so upcoming budget can be considered. Evaluate if current themes have been met before choosing new and different. Options include staying with current themes another year (have been active 2 years), or maybe add one, or start with a new set of themes.

Future Agenda Discussion Plan:

- 1) Plan to go deeper into the generational group's discussion at the upcoming October meeting.
- 2) Evaluate faith formation with Julie and Virginia, prepare for discussion with them at the October PPC meeting.
- 3) Synod results tallied and circulated to PPC before November meeting
- 4) November meeting will be changed from Monday (Ecumenical night) to **Tuesday, November 23, 6:30 start**. Agenda includes setting themes.
- 5) Finance council joint meeting with PPC in December, date TBD.
- 6) Themes to staff by December 1 for budget purposes.

St. Joseph Community Fund

Fr. Stan shared background information. SJ is eligible for government relief funds to support business during the Covid pandemic. The money will be divided to the following areas: One fourth to School Endowment, one fourth to Parish Endowment, one fourth to Capital Expenditures fund, and the final fourth to a discretionary fund (St. Joseph Community Fund). There are some funds yet to be received. This final installment will primarily fund the St. Joseph Community Fund. Since the intent of the disbursement was to help businesses stay open, the question posed is how can we use the discretionary fund to assist the parish community, as well as serve the greater community. The idea of an Endowment is favorable, since it can be used over a period of 6-12 years. Some thoughts include expanding/updating playground, which is open to community; an annual contribution to Love Inc., and events to attract millennials. The Board would determine distributions in the form of grants. Looking for advise/help from PPC to write up criteria to put some structure in place for the board to make monetary determinations. Also seeking consultation for the process of setting up a grant endowment. Once in place, grant availability could be advertised in the Catholic Spirit and Patriot.

The PPC approved the concept of St. Joseph Community Fund. The PPC recommended this fund have a process and criteria for distribution.

PPC discussed some preliminary criteria for a Decision Tree on St. Joseph Community Fund:

- Who is this serving; community greater than individual?

- One time or ongoing long term?
- Does it help the community to gather and return to pre-covid?
 - Define community, Waconia proper? Expand? Venezuela?

Action: Discussion regarding criteria to continue at a future meeting.

Pastor Time

- Secured a new PPC member, Izzy Van Eyll, a high school student. Will start next month.
- The search for a Business Administrator has resulted in an interim hire. Tom Konrardy will start in this position October 11, when he will vacate the Parish Council Chair position and a replacement will be sought. The parish will continue with search for a permanent Business Administrator.
- Food Shelf Update: Upgrades are being done in the building with a focus on expanding to a super store concept by increasing product choices to patrons. The Quilting Group has moved from the upper level of the building to the basement of the Rectory. The lease is being renegotiated, with a potential for a 5-year lease. The proportion of the renovation cost St. Joseph Parish will be responsible for is still being negotiated. The Food shelf has obtained grants for the project.
- Presbyterial Council Feedback: This was a meeting attended by Fr. Stan that included parish leadership from throughout the Archdiocese. The main question posed within the group concerned the percentage of parishioners coming back to mass after Covid restrictions were lifted. St. Joseph estimate is 60-70%. Other parishes reported an average of 70-80%, with some as high as 90% and some lower than 60%. All parishes shared a challenge to have volunteers return. The value of live streaming was discussed; does the benefit of having a live-stream mass option outweigh not having it.
- A Capital Expenditure/Project Request Form has been created by Finance Council and staff; this form was shared. The plan is to implement it with staff.

Ending Prayer

Next meeting: Monday, October 25, 2021, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in Parish Center (Basement)