

St. Francis of Assisi-Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting- February 21, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Paul Durham

Attendance: Fr. Shoby Chettiyath, Paul Durham, Glenda Griest, Chris Johnmeyer, Seth Hampel, John Walraven, Cheryl Coffelt, Clark Parmley, Linda Howard, and Jeff Chan (by phone)

Ex-officio Attendance: Deacon Gary Steffes, Julie Clarke

Opening Prayer: Linda Howard

Question of the Week: What can I change this Lent to make me a better proclaimer of God's good news? And what can you do this Lent to show you want to be more like Jesus? We discussed this among ourselves as different scenarios enter our lives what we can do or have done to be more like Jesus.

Minutes of Meeting January 17, 2024 were reviewed and approved.

Old Business

Church Expansion/Capital Campaign Update: Major phase of 32 families is almost complete. Currently there are 13 volunteers seeing 75+ families in the 2nd phase. 61% of the goal or \$1,384,000 has been committed to the Campaign. End of April commitment pledge cards will be distributed in the pews for any possible additional donations. Fr. Shoby brought up the discussion of a side project in the future – selling the current rectory and building one on the property. The Council brought up some feedback that they have heard on the Capital Campaign. Remember we need to act as advocates and keep praying on this. If currently giving, stretch a little bit.

Eucharistic Revival: Deacon Gary will be taking names in upcoming weekends for anyone interested in the Eucharistic Congress held Indianapolis, July 17-21, 2024. There will be information in the O'Reilly Community Room in the coming weeks. Check it out in the bulletin and on the website. Jesus and the Eucharist small groups are going well, around 60 participants. Prayer cards have been distributed and collected. Per Fr. Shoby, the Diocese is providing a special series of homilies on John's Gospel with Eucharistic teachings.

Update on ad hoc committee for March 2024 PPC elections: We currently have 5 candidates: Tracy King, Trevor Chan, Joe Schmitz, Bob Baker and Ken Palermo. Mary Ann Davis and David Smith withdrew. Jessica Le will be given more time to get to meet people and then possibly run in the future. The list

needs to be finalized by March 8th. Elections will be held March 23rd and March 24th. 5 or 6 candidates, 3 elected and 2 appointed. Concerning 3-year terms, we were all blessed with longer terms due to COVID and Fr. Shoby's OK. Council will continue to look at options to extend terms or shorten a term, to get to a three per year cycle of elections/appointments. Will table for future meetings.

New Business

2024 Retreat planning: Deacon Gary has contacted the director of stewardship in Wichita and is currently waiting for a reply. Once we get an answer we can firm up a date. Father requests everyone's participation.

Stewardship conference in Wichita: No interest expressed.

Round Table: John Walraven was asked to discuss with the Council if there were any resources for marriage counseling. There are marriage encounter weekends and healing marriage encounters in St. Louis. Father brought that there are no Catholic marriage counselors in the Springfield area. Second topic was around opportunities for young families with children to get together – can high school students get service hours? We will find a solution to the babysitting. Youth will need to sign a code of conduct and have an adult or two present to supervise/chaperone. Chris Johnmeyer and Cheryl Coffelt to get in touch with Sarah Noble.

Parish Plan Reports/Updates

Prayer, Sacraments and The Eucharist: Nothing new to report. This has already been discussed.

Total Stewardship/Finance: There is a separate account for building fund with a new bank. Concern was brought up on increased spend for utilities. There should be no concern over this, as it has been accounted for. Asked a Capital Campaign member how contributions are being made: either by EFT, checks, or cash. Stewardship: Parish directories will be out this weekend. New volunteers will be trained the next two weeks for Capital Campaign. Do we need a lead person for Hospitality on Sunday mornings? Linda Howard will talk to Abbey Fuentes.

Youth: No new concerns.

Community Outreach/Service: Rosary Guild doing good. The quilting group has new coordinators Katie Bond and Donna Davis. Delores Voet has stepped down. Ladies' Auxiliary is supporting the K of C each Friday at the fish fry's with salads, a variety of desserts, serving drinks and helping the Knights in the kitchen when needed. Any parishioner can help. Children's Liturgy on Sundays needs more volunteers. Ushers need to check pews after Mass: place missals in the holders, pick up any trash. Ushers need to help people more on Sundays. Assist them in finding seats in the middle of the pews. The cry room should be reserved for parents with children.

Welcoming Parishioners: We have had 60 new families in the last 2 years. Need to think about what can we do differently to see the Parish connect with new people. Cheryl Coffelt is checking with people that have signed up for this ministry to see what she can organize.

Evangelizing/"Finding new Parishioners": Book club going well. Starting a book about Edith Stein-St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Two new members from St Joseph in Springfield recently joined. Still looking for a coordinator to take over Penance dinners and Sacrament receptions. There has been some discussion on having a lead for Sunday morning coffee and donuts. This will be addressed further. All other areas are doing well.

Pastor's Comments

RCIA has nine people going through classes. Father will be going to the NYC conference this Friday. Need to be aware of new parishioners in our Parish. On Sundays, Father often sees new parishioners sitting by themselves and no one interacting with them. Reflect on this, go to them and be friendly! It has also come to his attention that inappropriate comments are being made to new people about children not being baptized and other sacraments that they may not have received yet. The crying room attendance is increasing. Parishioners are spread out through the tables now. We need to somehow get people without children to be in the main Church. Possibly with some further education for the ushers on seating people this will help. Our office manager Abbey Fuentes is resigning March 1. Please wish her well in her future endeavors, and express thanks for her great support of St. Francis of Assisi.

Closing Prayer: Linda Howard

Meeting Adjourned: 8:41 p.m.

Dates to Remember:

March 1, 8, 15 and 22 Fridays: Knights Fish Fry

March 15-17: Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend

March 20: Confirmation Retreat

March 23 6:30: Youth Blanket Making

March 31: Easter Sunday

April 12-13: Conference in Van Buren, MO. Those interested or working with youth.