

Pastoral Council Minutes February 13, 2024

Members Present: Deacon Bob, Dave Jandris (At Large), Jackie Aldrich (Vice-Chairperson - At Large), Dawn Kunz (At Large), Margaret Wagner (Service/Outreach Commission), Michelle Greco (Chairperson - At Large), Lynda Wagner (At Large), Jonah Tran (Youth Ministry), Fr. Ed Howe, CR (parochial Vicar), Fr. Norbert Raszeja, CR (Pastor), Marlene Clark (Parish Life Commission), and Sue Gosewehr (Recorder)

Guests: Mark Hodges

Members Not Present: Jerry Munley (Worship Commission), Sandy Schuller (Finance Commission), Chris Hannigan-Wiehn (Education Commission – Religious Formation), Replacement for Joe Heneghan (At Large), as well as Representatives from Education Commission (Religious Formation) and Education Commission (School)

The meeting opened with Eucharistic Revival Prayer and Mission Statement

BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes of the November 14, 2023 Meeting were approved as written (Michelle G-1st, Marlene C-2nd)

- Chili Cook-off – February 24, 2024 – Mark Hodges
 - 8 or 9 chefs
 - 17 baskets, impressed by number donated by commissions and organizations
 - Volunteers
 - Food – Hospitality
 - Tickets/Raffles – Council of Catholic Women
 - Beverages – Knights of Columbus
 - Lynda W volunteered to be runner for judges, or wherever else she may be needed

Commission Highlights – Please upload to drive before meeting – provide alternates to attend meeting if representative is not able to attend

- Religious Formation – Youth Ministry – Jonah T
 - Sundays – Fr. Mike Videos
 - Wednesdays – using Going Deeper – Bible Study
 - Past events/activities
 - October – Helped with St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive
 - November - 12 attended National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis – Amazing
 - December – Christmas Basket Distribution
 - January – Confirmation Retreat
 - Trivia Night was successful
 - Upcoming events/activities
 - February – Winter Retreat to Michigan
 - March – Stations of the Cross
 - Holy Week
 - Feed My Starving Children
 - Holy Thursday Pilgrimage – visit 7 churches
 - April – Confirmation Retreat

- May – Mission Trip
 - June – Steubenville Conferences
- Worship Commission – Report on drive
 - Discussion regarding communication for special Mass/events at Mass
 - Bob Miller needs to be contacted with changes
 - Ministers sign up and not contacted when changes made
 - Training inadequate
 - Suggest new ministers should be assigned with experienced ministers
 - Discussion regarding disruption at Mass
 - Provide list of usher e-mails to Deacon Bob
 - Discussion regarding security issues
 - Fr. Ed – we are not here to solve issues...
- Religious Formation – School – No Representative – Report on drive
 - Mrs. Kesterson trained school altar servers
- Religious Formation – Religious Education – Nancy Stock will report next month
- Religious Formation – Adult Faith Formation – No Representative
 - Deacon Bob Vacant role – in transition
 - 7-part series on the Eucharist let by Deacon Tom
- Finance Council – Sandy Schuller – On vacation
 - Survey out – not a good response
- Deanery Report – Jackie Aldrich – No Deanery Meeting – take place 3 times per year
- Service/Outreach Commission – Margaret Wagner – Report on Drive
 - St. Vincent de Paul – notes on Drive
- Parish Life Commission – Marlene Clark
 - Ministry Fair
 - Worship Commission Representation disappointing according to Barbara Schmith
 - No staffing
 - No sign-up sheets
 - Worship Commission asked not to be scheduled in December
 - Personal invitation best for volunteerism – ask to attend meeting
 - Speakers at Mass?
 - Council of Catholic Women
 - Marilyn Pickers coordinating Garage Sale
 - March 16, 9 am to 2 pm
 - Only 7 tables secured at this time
 - Stations of the Cross – March 22
 - Chili Cook-off
 - Knights of Columbus providing drinks
 - Many groups making baskets
 - Hospitality Sunday
 - May 4 is First Communion – may need to cancel if no help to set up

- Sue mentioned that there should not be an issue, as Chris does not need the entire gym
 - Hospitality Committee has no meetings – people like it
 - Teens helping with clean up after noon mass – great help!
- Deacon Bob
 - Hospitality has fewer tables & chairs
 - Need Parish Renewal Activity to bring people back to church
 - COVID broke people’s socialization

Council Focus and Discussion – Provided on agenda

- Kate Reder E-mail Discussion
 - Bereavement Group has changed to a Bible Study group
 - Discussion regarding Bereavement Procedures
 - Deacon Bob - vision
 - Funeral Home calls Office
 - Presider contacts funeral home to confirm
 - No bereavement ministry to meet with family
 - Mass coordinator assists at service
 - Fr. Norbert – procedure here
 - Funeral Home calls Office
 - Staff member checks calendar and availability of presider
 - Staff member confirms time and date of service with funeral home
 - Family members provided planning packet and either comes into the office or is called
 - Procedure has changed recently – no information from family provided until last minute
 - Fr. Ed
 - After service confirmed with funeral home, family is called to learn more about deceased
 - Office takes information regarding liturgy
 - Likes to attend visitation early to meet with family
 - Cold calls – contact next of kin
 - Grief groups not popular immediately after loss
 - We provide prayer service at wake
 - Deacons can do service at Funeral Home or cemetery
 - Lay person can do service at Funeral Home or cemetery
 - Parking – events that take place during funeral need to use upper parking lot
 - Consensus: bereaved are being served
- New member
 - Pat O’Donnell replacing Joe Hennigan at next meeting
- Discernment in April
 - Jackie & Dawn Coordinators
 - Announcements in bulletin
 - Personally, invite potential candidates

- Election of Officers next meeting
 - Chairperson – Dawn possible
 - Vice-chairperson
- Fr. Norbert's Comments
 - Hosted Deanery Meeting
 - It has been 4 years since we hosted
 - Mergers in Joliet were discussed
 - 20 plus students on Empower Illinois at St. Scholastica
 - Fr. Ed and Fr. Norbert will be leaving June 30 – Diocesan priest will be installed
 - Do not know where they will be assigned
 - Diocese has an open listing of parishes for diocesan priests to chose
 - COVID did not do us any favors
 - Number of organizations selling in Breezeway needs to be reduced to 1 per week – no more than 2 weekends in a row for an organization

The meeting closed with prayer

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12 at 7 pm in Room 112

March Meeting - Opening Prayer – Eucharistic Revival Prayer

Closing Prayer – Lynda W

Please upload written reports into the shared drive, monthly meeting as soon as possible