

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
February 21, 2023**

The Parish Pastoral council meeting was called to order at 6:00PM in the Parish Conference Room. Members present were Bear Wadzinski, Joe Mattke, Nancy Huber, Tom Oscar and Fr. Louis. Members absent: Doug Duchac, Michele Wingate, Sandy Bishop and Karen Gaurke. Others present: Laura Reiter, Ann Jelinek, Jan Huseby, Levi Spaeth, and Patti Baacke.

Fr. Louis began the meeting with a prayer.

The Mission Statement was read.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Bear made a motion to approve the minutes, Nancy seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Staff reports: The staff reports were reviewed. Laura reported that another \$55,000 from COVID funds will be received by the parish. Jan reported that the Homebound Ministry is really being worked on with new volunteers. A Eucharistic Minister training will be taking place in the spring, and that will hopefully bring some more volunteers to the Homebound Ministry. Juanita reported that she accepted the job as principal for next year. Currently, there are 72 students enrolled for next year. We will need to recruit 2 teachers. The school will be having a booth at the Home Sport and Travel show again this year and Juanita wants to gear it towards children. Ann said the AED batteries and new pads have arrived. Many donations were received for these items.

Patti talked about the Respect Life Committee. There are three active volunteers. Cards were made for outreach and distributed. An inventory was done on all the resources available in the area. The Diocese then used that information to make a regional resource booklet. The Cradle for Life is in the Harris Portico. We have an ample supply of donations of diapers and baby supplies. They did a diaper and wipes drive where diapers and wipes were distributed through the thrift cellar and the food pantry. They redid the baptism totes. They conducted a Rosary for Life. They want to do more outreach with the other churches in town. Nancy said that Amazon does have big sales of wipes throughout the year. Upcoming events: The Annunciation, Mother's Day, and the Baby Bottle collection.

Old Business:

1. Standing Committee Development Discussion-Every Family being involved in Church activities.
 - Hospitality/Social: **Staff member:** Julia Pankow **Council members:** Bear
 - Outreach/Mission/Service:**Staff member:**Ann Jelinek **Council members:** Sandy
 - Liturgy/Worship: **Staff members:** Jan & Fr. Louis **Council members:** Tom
 - Faith Formation: **Staff member:** Marianna **Council member:** Karen

No new information that wasn't already talked about in staff reports..

2. Parish Council Term Limit Review and Discussion:
 - a. New Officer Election Bear was nominated as vice chair, Tom as chair, and Sandy as secretary. The council will vote at the next meeting in March.

- b. Recruitment for 4 new council members: Four people volunteered to join the council, so we will stop the search. Laura will ask them for short bios to put in the bulletin. Laura will bring returning members bios to the next meeting for them to update. To “elect” the new officers, we will have just a round of applause as approval at a Mass in April.
 3. Family Mass
 - a. Adopt a Grandparent. The council thought that an announcement in the bulletin asking if there are any grandparents that want to adopt a family and a flier that goes to the school and religious ed families asking if they would like to adopt a grandparent for the family mass would be a good start. Next meeting the council will ask Sandy if she could head this project.

New Business:

1. Mass time change: Laura’s analysis was reviewed. The 10:30 mass has gained a lot of people. It may be time to grow the family mass. Jan suggested having one less mass on Sunday, so that there are more people at mass, for a larger sense of community.
2. Youth minister: Laura reported that Marianna sees a need for a youth minister. Youth ministry would include a high school youth group, people to head extra things like youth rallies, Extreme Faith Camp, and NCYC. The council thought this was important as well. Levi did offer to help. Maybe a committee could be formed to fill this void.

Other Business:

1. School-Current state: School has found a full-time sub for the 2nd-3rd classroom.
2. Change in day of council meeting: Laura asked if Thursday would be a better day for a council meeting. Bear said he might miss a couple meetings in the summer if that was the case.
3. Tom commended the bulletin, website, and facebook. He asked if a permanent box be put in the bulletin to list volunteers and their numbers. Laura will talk to Tracy about that.
4. Tom suggested that Fr. Louis’ monthly article that is published in the Leader be put on the website and facebook. Laura will talk with Tracy about that.
5. Tom suggested that testimonials be put in the bulletin and on facebook.
6. Levi mentioned that if fathers in a family attend mass, the more likely the children will attend later in life. It was suggested that we have some activities geared towards the men in the parish.

Tom did the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:25PM. Sandy will do closing prayer next month.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23 at 6:00PM in the Parish Conference Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Reiter