

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

September 28, 2023

The Parish Pastoral Council meeting began at 6 pm in the CCC. Members present were Tom Oscar, Sandy Bishop, Mary Bailey, Mary Luedke, Pete Pintens, Levi Spaeth, Bear Wadzinski, and Fr. Louis. Members absent: Michele Wingate and Doug Duchac. Others present: Marianna Merkatoris, Jan Huseby, Juanita Skubal, and Jeff Walker.

Fr. Louis began the meeting with a prayer.

At the council's invitation, James Ludwig, representative from the Augustine Institute, gave a virtual presentation via Zoom on "FORMED," a Catholic streaming service and digital library that includes thousands of educational programs, audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kid's programming. Council members were interested in learning more about the service and what resources would be available if the parish was to purchase a subscription. With an annual subscription of \$2,199, parish leaders, families, and individuals could access the content on their PCs, via their preferred streaming services, as well as through an app on various devices. Content is categorized and organized for easy navigation. Various ministries of the church could also use the sacramental content for faith formation and religious education for all ages. James showed a trailer of *Presence, the Mystery of the Eucharist*, that demonstrated the high quality content that is available through the platform. James also highlighted a series called "*The Search Begins*" that would be useful for middle and high school students. The platform also includes leader resources and promotional content for parish leaders to use the resources to the fullest advantage, as well as coaching sessions and training for parish leaders to implement the FORMED platform most effectively. Pricing is based on the number of registered households in the parish. Based on our size, St. Mary's would fall under the standard pricing tier. Following time for questions and answers, James led a closing prayer.

Discussion continued after James' presentation as to the usefulness of the program for our parish, how the various ministries could use the resources, and ways the parish could promote the program and raise funds for the annual subscription. Council members present recommended that we pursue the purchase and implementation of the FORMED program for our parish.

Minutes from the August 17th meeting were reviewed. Mary Luedke made a motion to approve the minutes; Bear seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Staff reports – Tom praised the staff for the detail included in their reports and encouraged council members to thoroughly review the information that's provided and bring any questions or discussion points to council meetings.

Old Business:

1. FORMED - Staff will discuss further as to how to move forward. Levi will have a follow-up call with James.
2. Church marketing – Tom reviewed the information that Tracy provided him regarding the website analytics. Juanita mentioned that she's sending weekly bulletins home with all the St. Mary's students as a means to inform and engage family members in parish life.
3. Volunteer profiles for the bulletin – Jan reported a positive response from her email to volunteers seeking their interest in being featured in the profiles for the bulletin (18 individuals).
4. Questions from festival update – Council members voiced concerns and confusion over the responses to the questions submitted during the festival related to those wishing to receive communion while kneeling and the ringing of bells during the consecration. Fr. Louis clarified his position, reiterated the new practice of reserving the front center pew for individuals to receive communion while kneeling, and apologized for any confusion.
5. Faith night update – Approximately 35 adults attended the September 27th Faith Night. All agreed that there was a good turnout, especially for the first session. There were many positive comments about the speaker and message.
6. Family Mass update – The 9:30 am Mass time seemed to work very well for the family Mass, and participation was strong.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

Other Business:

Tom encouraged ushers to continue reaching out to families for their assistance in distributing bulletins after Mass.

The annual influenza clinic is set for October 8th.

The date for Confirmation has been set for November 1st – all are welcome.

Mary L. led the closing prayer.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19th at 6 pm in the CCC.

Minutes submitted by Sandy Bishop