

Mother of Perpetual Help Parish

Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes – Monday, December 4, 2023

A meeting of the Mother of Perpetual Help Pastoral Council was held in the Notre Dame Room of the Parish Center on 106th Street on Monday, December 4, 2023.

Council members in attendance were: Fr. Matthew Perumpil, Pastor, Gary Jensen, Council Chairperson, Sharon Anderer, Deb Morgan, John Weber, and Don Pederson, Vice Chairperson and Acting Recording Secretary. Also in attendance were John Gomez and Debbie Peterson, Trustees, and Steve Lazarczyk, Finance Council.

Excused were Karen Brah, Devan Gracyalny, Dave Shook, and Susan Scharmach.

1. The meeting was called to order by Gary Jensen at 6:35 PM
2. The meeting opened with a prayer provided by John Gomez
3. MPH Parish Festival – Steve Lazarczyk
 - Festival is going to be held June 21-23
 - Steve Lazarczyk is leading the festival committee
 - Updates as details become available

At this time Steve Lazarczyk left the meeting

4. My Parish Matters Review – Deb Morgan, Don Pederson and Debbie Peterson
 - Overall theme:
 - Build a welcoming and engaging culture
 - Have a welcoming team
 - Have a gathering area for talking – not in church
 - Be attentive to what people see when they enter the church
 - Approach and welcome new people
 - Suggested parish changes
 - Announce where the bathrooms are located
 - Develop a welcoming team
5. Communication Plan – Gary Jensen
 - Parish Communications
 - Website and Social Media Development is going to be handled by Gary Jensen and his son, David
 - Marketing Tools Update – Sharon Anderer
 - Provided samples of the possible clothing and pens w/logos
 - Going to check a couple more places for this
 - Creating a website to place orders is the best option
6. Council Engagement – Fr. Matthew
 - Council assignment
 - Think about your goals for the parish
 - Why are you on Council?
 - What are your passions and talents?

7. Liaison Reports/Updates

- Buildings & Grounds – John Gomez
 - Roof replacement is currently underway; unbudgeted cost is \$130,000
 - Snow removal – parking lots outsourced and staff will remove snow from sidewalks and walkways
 - Exploring new gathering area on the 106th Street side of the church
- Finance – Don Pederson
 - We submitted a balanced financial report to the Archdiocese
 - Two vacancies on Finance Committee need to be filled
- Liturgy – Karen Brah
 - No update
- Human Concerns – John Weber
 - Spaghetti Dinner went well – 167 attendees and they made over \$1,000
 - Shoeboxes of Joy – Christian Women have completed over 50 boxes for donation
 - Rummage Sale went well
 - Advance Funeral Planning presentation was well attended
 - St. Vincent DePaul – more people are using
 - Flu shot vaccine went well
 - Diaper Drive went well
 - Rosary Walk went well
 - 85 turkeys given out for Thanksgiving
- Social Committee – Sharon Anderer
 - Trivia Night scheduled for last Saturday in February
- Formation – Devan Gracyalny
 - No update
- Deanery Report – Gary Jensen
 - No update
- School – Gary Jensen
 - 12 Schools are under Seton and all are doing well; most of which have the voucher program
 - More families from the school have joined the parish
 - 40% pay tuition (\$3,000)
 - 60% use voucher program (\$11,000)
 - Tuition will be increased school year 2024-25 to cover expenses and parish members will receive a special rate
 - MPH has restricted money for school scholarships and parishes are encouraged to support those who struggle to pay with scholarships

8. Pastor's Update – Fr. Matthew

- Visit to the India was good – attended the wedding of his niece, visited with biological family, reunion of the children Fr. Matthew raised (HIV orphan children) and explored their ongoing support for future needs and emergencies, especially with healthcare
- MPH has 3 RCIA candidates
- Christmas Mass Schedule – All Masses at Worship site (East site)
 - Christmas Eve – 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM
 - Christmas Day – 9:00 AM
- Staff update – Nicole Hirthe is the Finance and Human Resources Director
- Margaret Rondeau retired as Pastoral Minister
 - The two Sisters coming to our parish from India will be taking over those responsibilities
 - Interim Fr. Matthew and volunteers will be handling the funerals
- Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal
 - Appeal percentage was 86% last year and 56% this year

- 30% of the parish members are the donors
- Need to develop a Stewardship and Budget Committee
- We received two installments from our Love One Another campaign from the Archdiocese in the amounts of \$115,000 and \$17,421
- Five Sisters will be coming from India and staying at the MPH East Site Rectory – 2 will be working for the parish and 3 will be working at St. Camillas

9. Miscellaneous/Brainstorming

- Dynamic Parish
 - Connect w/parishioners
 - Improve communication
 - Social Events
 - Create “Engagement Team/Committee” – Don Pederson to lead this committee
 - Strategic events to use facilities
 - Utilize Council as an example of positivity
 - Communicate initiatives to the parishioners
- Parish Vibrancy
 - A well-liked priest and high-end music does not make a parish vibrant
 - A vibrant parish recognizes there are different profiles of the congregation
 - Vibrant Parishes have common simple focus of what matters and what does not. The fruits of a vibrant parish often lead to increased Parishioner numbers, higher giving, higher engagement and a general sense of caring

10. Meeting closed with a Prayer by John Gomez

Susan Scharmach will provide opening prayer for next meeting

Thereafter the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Notre Dame Room – Parish Center

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M Scharmach

Susan M. Scharmach, Secretary
Don Pederson, Acting Recording Secretary