

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES  
March 1, 2022**

The Parish Pastoral council meeting was called to order at 6:00PM in the Parish Conference Room. Members present were Joe Mattke, Doug Duchac, Michele Wingate, Tom Oscar, and Fr. Louis. Members absent: Walt Woiten, Karen Gauerke, Sandy Bishop, Nancy Huber, Bear Wadzinski. Staff members present: Marianna Merkatoris, Ann Jelinek, and Laura Reiter.

Fr. Louis began the meeting with a prayer.

The Mission Statement was read.

Laura informed the council that a parishioner, Patti Baacke, was interested in starting a Respect Life committee for St. Mary's. She will speak at the next council meeting.

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

Staff reports: The staff reports were reviewed.

Joe asked Fr. Louis if the Bishop has issued any new directives on the distribution of communion. Fr. Louis reported that Bishop is letting each parish decide their own distribution procedures. Fr. Louis said we are keeping distribution the way it is for the time being.

Marianna reported that she has found, through her baptismal preparation classes, that many parents are finding it hard to find confirmed people to be godparents for their children. She is going to start a small program to educate prospective godparents about the faith that would lead to them receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The program would consist of 5 sessions with the format of Mass, sharing a meal, and learning. The program would also teach the role of a godparent.

Marianna also reported on a change she made to the middle school religious ed format: she is now including a small meal. So far the change has been good and the students seemed more settled during class time after the meal.

Ann said batteries will need to be replaced soon in the AED machines. Joe asked if an AED training has to be done for ushers. Ann said it has been a while since the ushers have been trained, but the machines are self-explanatory and no training is really needed.

The council would like to thank Rita for her service as our school principal. She has done a wonderful job in her position. The council thought of ways to honor her.

Old Business:

1. Outdoor Mass: The outdoor Mass is set for the 11AM Mass on Sunday, August 14. The

shelters are reserved until 2PM.

2. Discussion on Standing committees/goals: The goal of the pastoral council is to have at least one member of every family involved in some ministry or activity in the church.

The council talked of how to set a benchmark in order to evaluate their goal. It was decided that for each area, a staff member who is in charge can go through the parish directory and highlight those families currently volunteering.

The next step of the process is to put together a letter for all parishioners that lists the activities and ministries that are available for volunteers. There will be an opportunity for parishioners to mark if they currently serve in one of these areas or if they would like to. Fr. Louis will write a paragraph for the letter with the goal of the parish council explained. Laura & Marianna will work on the letter which will be approved by the council at the next meeting.

Another step is to put together a brochure on the ministries and activities. Marianna showed an example of one, and the council thought it was a good format to use. Marianna will work on the brochure for the next meeting.

Michele also brought up the idea of “advertising” at big events at church. Easter is the next big event. The council will think of ideas on what information and how to bring it to the parishioners at Easter.

3. Listing of the recent passing of parishioners in the bulletin: Laura asked Tracy about this.

It is hard to do this without missing people or adding people whose families wish to be private. It was decided to start with listing in the bulletin the deceased who have funerals at St. Mary's. If it is determined that some parishioners would like to list other deceased in the bulletin, we can. Language can be added to the list saying that parishioners who would like to add their loved ones who have died but did not have a funeral at St. Marys must contact the parish office to do so.

#### New Business:

1. Endowment committee: The bylaws of the School Endowment committee require a member of the Parish council to be a member of the committee. Michele Wingate volunteered for this position.
2. Term limits: Three members have their term limit expiring in May. Fr. Louis asked if they might consider staying on one more year. Because of COVID, our renewing of the council on a 2 year cycle got messed up. Since we just recruited members last year, it would be optimal to wait one more year before we recruit again. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Laura was asked to send the term limit form along with the minutes when they are prepared.
3. Parish council minutes: Tom asked if the PC minutes can be made available to the

parishioners. Tracy has been putting the minutes on the website and will now put them in the back of the church after they are approved (this was discontinued during COVID). An announcement that the minutes are available will be made this weekend.

4. Laura reported that Fr. Louis would like a member of the parish council to be a part of the hiring committee for principal. Laura would like to ask Nancy since she is also a parent. Michele volunteered to be the representative if Nancy is not available.

Michele made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Doug seconded it and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.

The next meeting will be held on March 15th at 6:00PM in the Parish Conference Room. Sandy will do the closing prayer.

Minutes submitted by Laura Reiter