

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 26, 2021**

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

Fr. Louis began the meeting with a prayer.

The Mission Statement was read.

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

Staff reports: The staff reports were reviewed.

Marianna: A question was asked about enrollment. Middle school has the largest enrollment. The younger grades are growing. Marianna invited the catholic school kids to attend. Nancy suggested that the school parents be informed of this. Marianna will send something home with the catholic school kids to inform the parents.

Old Business: .

1. ALICE training: ALICE training took place on Sunday, August 22. The event went well and was well attended. Members who attended reported that they learned a lot. A few members commented that in the future, the program could be enhanced if the church itself could be included and be evaluated for specific procedures to be used in case of an armed intruder there. Joe thought we should repeat the training in the spring, and the council agreed.
2. Parish Festival Report: Nancy said she will have more information after the festival wrap-up meeting.
3. Outdoor Mass: Jan reported that the Cronicks would like to do the music for an outdoor mass. Jan will call them to get a couple dates and Michele will talk to the city about open dates for the park. The council thought the mass should not be the same weekend as the festival.
4. Parish ministries: Jan shared the 1987 mission statement, which looked like a condensed version of our current mission statement. Jan had reviewed the Diocesan guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils, and saw that they recommend Standing Committees. Standing Committees can have any focus; some examples are Social, Outreach, Worship, or Education. Once the Standing Committees are decided on by the pastoral council, the members of the pastoral council divided themselves between them. Then, council members, with other volunteers and staff, set goals to accomplish. All goals should support our Mission. Standing committees are a way of centralizing our current ministries and activities.

For the next meeting, at the council's request, Jan, Marianna, and Laura will look at the current list of ministries and activities that was put together at a previous meeting, and put them into thematic groups. Along with that, will be a description of the ministry/activity, who it serves, the staff involved, and the volunteers involved.

Engagement of people and growth of our church are the main goals of the council, and focusing on some of our areas of ministries and activities will give structure for people to participate and engage. Fr. Louis mentioned a goal: Every family of St. Mary's to have at least one person involved in some way.

New Business: There was no new business.

Other Business: Nancy asked about using the holy water fonts. There have been no updates from Bishop Powers on that. In his May 2021 letter, he specifically stated that holy water fonts remain empty. A suggestion was made to use disposable plastic containers for people to use who want to, keeping available the touchless holy water fonts for those who want to use those. Staff will look into this possibility.

Michele led the closing prayer

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov 16 at 6:00PM in the Parish Conference Room. Tom will lead the closing prayer for next month.

Minutes submitted by Laura Reiter