

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
Sept. 19, 2024**

The Parish Pastoral council meeting was called to order at 6:00PM in the CCC. Members present were Tom Oscar, Mary Bailey, Bear Wadzinski, Pete Pintens, Mary Luedke, Jeff Walker, and Fr. Aloysius. Members absent: Sandy Bishop, Michele Wingate and Doug Duchac. Others present: Jan Huseby, Marianna Merkatoris, Juanita Skubal and Laura Reiter.

Fr. Aloysius 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, Mary L. seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Staff reports: The staff reports were reviewed and are attached. Grotto and statues: Fr. Aloysius would like the statue of Mary that is outside either elevated or in a grotto. Also, Fr. Aloysius would like statues of Mary and John, depicting the scene at Calvary, behind the altar. Jan said lifesize statues cost around \$18,000. Fr. Aloysius will see what they do at the churches in India when he goes in November. Mary L. said that St. Cecilia's in the Dells has something like that. We will try to get a picture from that church and/or other churches for some ideas. Juanita has been asked about starting a middle school, and she has ideas on how that would work. She wants to put out a survey to see if there is enough interest and support for a middle school. Juanita asked the council to submit possible questions for the survey by October 1. Tom wanted to thank the prayer shawl committee for their ministry.

Old Business:

1. Discipleship & Evangelization:
 - a. Small groups update: The bulletin recently announced the starting of 2 groups—a Service Group and a Family Apostolate. There has not been a whole lot of interest so far. Mary L. asked if there will be speakers like last year to attract families. For now, we are offering small groups to get the families involved and build relationships. There may be speakers in the future, if we can get more families involved and interested. Family mass seems to be growing and we are seeing more families in church.
 - b. Permanent 6-8 member discipleship team: Tom would like to have a new point person on that group. Marianna will work with Fr. Aloysius to see if another person could be a new point person. Also, they will try to come up with some other people to ask to be on the team.
2. Suggestions from Parish Festival: Mary B. had the suggestion box. The suggestions were: Bring back the Precious Blood (already taken care of), bring back the bells during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, add a time for Adoration for people who work and cannot attend on Friday mornings, and put a step stool in the CCC bathroom for children. Fr. Aloysius would like to bring back the bells—the staff will have to discuss how this will happen and bells need to be purchased. There was a contact name that would like to help with Adoration. The council thought that having Adoration on the first Saturday, from 9-10AM when Fr. Aloysius is having confessions might work. Fr. Aloysius was fine with this suggestion, but he wants to have someone in charge who will be there during that time. The contact person will be called and the staff will have to discuss the details.

3. Parishioner update: Laura was able to go through the registration updates from the festival. One new parishioner was added to the roster. Laura also said that an online directory through CDM, our current parishioner database, could be started free of charge. Parishioners would be able to edit their information and join groups.
4. Recruitment of Sacristans: The new Sacristan document was reviewed. Currently we have 4 volunteers, but are always looking for more for this ministry.

New Business:

1. RCIA renamed to OCIA—Order of Christian Initiation. Kathy Ramassini said there will be few changes in the structure which begins in October & November.
2. FORMED subscription: Laura contacted FORMED and found out that there are 58 registered users, with 9,800 minutes watched this past year. The cost of the subscription is \$2,200. Last year the subscription was paid by a donor. The council suggested contacting those 58 people for a donation and/or asking for donations.

Other Business:

1. Rice Bowls/CRS: Mary Bailey asked if Marianna ever found out anything from the Diocese about Catholic Relief Services giving money for abortions. She did not ever get an answer. Fr. Aloysius was unaware of this allegation, and will ask the Diocese himself. Fr. Aloysius has seen the good CRS does in India with the orphanages.

Fr. Aloysius led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 17 at 6:00PM** in the CCC. Michele will lead the closing prayer.

Minutes submitted by Laura Reiter