

# Mother of Perpetual Help Parish

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – Monday, January 8, 2024

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, January 8, 2024.

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

Excused were Dave Shook, and Susan Scharmach.

1. The meeting was called to order by Gary Jensen at 6:35 PM
2. The meeting opened with the following prayer provided by Susan Scharmach and read by all:

*Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for wisdom and support as we begin this meeting. May everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your help.*

*We ask for guidance throughout this meeting that all of our thoughts and actions would reflect your Holy will. Remember that all of our concerns are aimed at the spiritual transformation of our parish community.*

*We do ask you to grant us the grace to love you and our neighbors more perfectly. And to remind us that all we do here today is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of you.*

*We ask all these things in your name. Amen*

3. Communication/Social Media Update – Gary Jensen
  - Meeting with Fr. Matthew, Kathy Smith, Carrie Gorski and Gary Jensen
    - Gary Jensen appointed Interim Communication Director
    - Team meetings will be held bi-weekly
    - All communication will go through the Communication Director
  - Social Media – Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, Flocknote
    - MPH needs to step up social media presence
    - Improve utilization of Flocknote for member communication
    - Content on all media avenues needs to be upgraded
    - Website update is high priority
  - Create Master Calendar for all meetings and events
  - All website material to be submitted to the office for content control
4. Review of Pastoral Council Manual – Gary Jensen
  - What Does the Council Do? (p. 33)
    - Three Principal Purposes
      - To serve – to fulfill the pastoral mission
      - To strive – to build a community
      - To engage – a continuous process of pastoral planning
  - How Does the Council Function? (p. 34)
    - Pastoral Council has four key functions
      - To study purpose issues and propose practical conclusions
      - To assess and promote pastoral activity
      - To collaborate parish commissions/committees
      - To develop long-range plans

- Pastoral Council Is the Parish Structure (p. 35)
    - Four Essential Elements of a Good Organization
      - Innovation – dedication to evangelization and awareness of changes
      - Adaptation – dealing with unexpected developments, including conflict
      - Evaluation – assess what the parish does well and ways for improvement
      - Graduation – be inviting, supportive, and willing to train
5. Pastoral Plan: Engagement Committee – Don Pederson
- Initial meeting included brainstorming ideas for events
    - First event – Pickleball on Saturday, February 10th, from 12:00-3:00 PM
    - Finalization of budget
    - Marketing of event: Bulletin, Mass announcement, fish fry possibilities
6. Liaison Reports/Updates
- Buildings & Grounds – John Gomez
    - Roof replacement on Parish Center has been completed
    - Rectory space at the East Site has been prepped and is move-in ready for the Sisters from India who are scheduled to arrive on January 30th
    - Cadence Lease: renewal or not
  - Finance – Don Pederson
    - No update – next meeting January 31st
  - Liturgy – Karen Brah
    - No update – next meeting February 7th
  - Human Concerns – John Weber
    - Cookie Ministry was a success
  - Social Committee – Sharon Anderer
    - Trivia Night scheduled for Saturday, February 24th
  - Formation – Devan Gracyalny
    - No update
  - Deanery Report – Gary Jensen
    - No update
  - School – Gary Jensen
    - No update
7. Pastor's Update – Fr. Matthew
- Mary Queen of Saints Catholic Academy
    - Current enrollment is 159 students which is an 18% increase in enrollment this year
    - The school is preparing for a tuition increase to cover the deficit for 2024-25 school year. Those tuition paying families with difficulties will have access to scholarship from the parishes and financial assistance from school and Seton Foundation
  - Christmas Celebrations
    - On December 23rd, MPH hosted the final Simbang Gabi Mass which is organized by the Filipino community. Archbishop Jerome ListECKI along with Fr. Jojo and Fr. Matthew celebrated the Mass which was followed by a delicious Filipino lunch at our West Site. There were 250 attendees
    - Christmas Eve
      - 4:00 PM – 450 attendees
      - 6:30 PM – 150 Attendees
    - Christmas Day
      - 9:00 AM – 250 attendees

- Faith Formation
  - We have a good group for first communion this year from our Parish which will be combined with the communion class of Mary Queen of Saints School; date is May 4th at our 4:00 PM Mass
  - We have 6 Confirmation Candidates; combined confirmation will be celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Parish for the cluster parishes
  - We have 2 RCIA candidates this year preparing for their sacrament of initiation
- 125 families with young children in the Parish creating the need to promote programs to support their faith and Christian life and involvement in the Parish
- The two Sisters from India joining MPH on January 30th will assist with faith formation, support to families and pastoral ministry to the homebound
- Archdiocese is having three meetings focusing on Stewardship Commission; MPH will host the January 24th meeting which will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 PM
- Ash Wednesday is February 14th
- Lenten Mission 2024 to be held week prior to Holy Week with presentations on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by Dan Schultz of Cardinal Stritch
- Fr. Matthew will address the Parish at all Masses January 20/21 regarding the feedback he has been receiving regarding the finance update sent to members and will encourage members to focus on the strengths of our Parish and to continue moving forward as a vibrant community of faith
- Parish Budget process will begin by the end of January and all departments and committees are encouraged to prepare and submit their budget proposals to the Finance Director timely

8. Meeting closed with a Prayer led by Fr. Matthew

Thereafter the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM  
Notre Dame Room – Parish Center

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan M Scharmach*

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