

**ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MAY 2, 2024, MEETING MINUTES**

Members present: John Hopkins, Chairman, Sr. Linda Mary DeLonais, Kelly Houston, Dan Jackson, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Tom Mines, Brenda Neumann, Gail Wolff and Jan Gremaud, Guest.

Members absent: Paul Baumgartner, Angee Clark-Hellon, Amanda Detmer, Greg Schrage, Steve Stack.

Opening Prayer was offered by John Hopkins.

No corrections to the April Minutes. Motion by Gail Wolff and seconded by Tom Mines to accept the Minutes; motion carried; Minutes approved.

### **Old Business**

Fr. Kevin reported on the 2024 Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage stopping at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish July 8 where Belleville Diocese Bishop Michael McGovern will hand off the traveling monstrance to Bishop Paprocki 1-3pm with adoration and procession, then travel to St. Mary's in Alton for potluck dinner, witness talks and adoration. On July 9, Ss. Peter & Paul Church (old cathedral) in Alton will have 8:15am Mass followed by 9-11:00am procession in Alton. Next stop, Quincy for evening Mass honoring the death (7/9/1897) of Fr. Augustine Tolton. Fr. Kevin plans to participate.

Brenda is still looking for a youth member and has a couple candidates in mind. More to follow.

Census Update--see Dan's report below under New Business.

No report on St. Anne's lending program for walkers, canes, wheelchairs, etc., for the needy.

Sr. Linda Mary reminded everyone of the month-long May 8:00am rosary prior to all 8:30 Masses. Rosaries and instructions for their use will be provided for the PFF children.

### **New Business/Reports**

**St. John Neumann:** Kelly reported that Mr. Hart has completed student MAP testing. Tom asked about the SJN average scores for MAP and how they compare to the State of Illinois. Kelly will check with Mr. Hart on that. The Moana Junior play April 19 was a huge success. SJN completed the Resurrection run. Inducted new members into the junior honor society. 7<sup>th</sup> graders are going to space camp. 6<sup>th</sup> grade heading to Camp Ondessonk, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade going to DC. They are having a May Crowning on Friday, May 3, at 8:20am. Mr. Bremmer reported to Kelly that students will spend time praying to the Blessed Mother and crowning a statue of Mary with flowers to celebrate her. 2nd and 4th graders learned about the names and meaning of the items that a priest uses at the altar during the Mass. All classrooms now have fonts with Holy Water in them that teachers can refill as needed. Students received a brief lesson of the symbolism and importance of Holy Water to remind us of our Baptism. Plans to renovate the school chapel are moving forward, including relocating the chapel to a room that is central and visible. SJN is sponsoring donut Sunday at MPH and is looking for volunteers. Maybe the students could get in some hours and SJN families could volunteer as well as for church cleaning. Brenda already has a schedule. Get a few families together, but not on a regular schedule. Dan suggested to offer sign-up sheets or use sign-up genie with time slots maybe once a month for donut Sunday, office work/mailings, cleaning the church/vacuuuming, making the summer lunches, etc. (Families are required to put in 20 hours from July to June.) Heather at SJN could help set this up.

**Youth News Report:** Brenda reported on the youth closing event Sunday with a Cinco de Mayo theme. Parents can come with their kids. VBS is Sunday July 21 through Thursday, July 25, with a Great Big Beautiful World theme following the Pope's wish to take care of our world.

**Census Report:** Dan provided a report of the Census Committee results: 471 members verified (58.4%). Members are considered active if they attend Mass, make contributions, participate in some ministry, clean the church, etc., all different ways people contribute. Of the 335 members contacted and still unverified, 26 emails came back undeliverable, 11 responded with 5 confirmed and 6 deleted. Kelly suggested sending a second email, since the first one may have been missed. Efforts to contact will continue via email, letters, asking other parishioners/staff and phone calls. Tom discussed the success of the QR code and to consider that a permanent option.

**Long Range Strategic Planning:** As there were three voting members absent, this will be discussed at a later date.

**June Ministry Fair:** John discussed Steve's concerns that June may be too soon to have all the planning done. Kelly suggested that later in the summer might be better so students going back to school can plan how to get their service hours. John is making a list of the various ministries and who is in charge. School starts August 16. Plans are to shoot for the weekend of August 17-18 along with snacks/Donut Sunday.

**Music Ministry Search Committee:** John is heading up the committee and met with Betsey on how to advertise for this position. Is it one person or two for music, worship aids and liturgical training? There is the audio/visual need to record the Mass on Facebook. Steve also managed HVAC. Fr. Kevin is considering taking some of these extra duties out of the music ministry job description and seeing if there are parishioners who are willing to step up. Could someone from the parish volunteer for the liturgical training, audio/visual and/or HVAC portions? Betsey suggested to advertise in the Friday email blast. More to follow.

#### **Fr. Kevin Comments:**

On May 1, Fr. Kevin attended the annual Jubilee Celebration for priests of the diocese with speaker Archbishop George Lucas, formerly of this diocese and currently Archbishop of Omaha, who turns 75 next month. He gave good talks to orient priests on the feast days coming up. Archbishop also shared a humorous personal recollection of a St. Jerome confirmation he conducted years ago. Fr. Kevin will be gone Mother's Day weekend which is Mission Co-op. Fr. Fortunatas will be here from Tanzania, East Africa; and he will make the Mission Co-op appeal. We need to be extra generous as they want to start or build up their own seminary. Fr. Kevin is getting his required shots for the July trip to Guatemala. Fr. Kevin, Lucy and Aaron will be preparing for what they will experience there. Not a lot of change in new clergy appointments in Madison County, other than Fr. Michael Trummer of St. Boniface is being transferred to the Arcola area and will be followed at St. Boniface by his brother Fr. Chris Trummer. Highland is getting a Parochial Vicar, and a Granite City priest is moving to the Cathedral. Regarding the Centennial Campaign, Katie Price is coming here Wednesday, June 5 at 6:00 pm. in St. Joseph's Hall to discuss the vitality study. Regarding the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Fr. Kevin reported that he did not attend the last meeting, and the next meeting June 8.

Next meeting scheduled June 6, 2024, at 7:00pm

Closing Prayer was offered by John Hopkins, and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Recorded by Gail Wolff