

**ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL  
JUNE 5, 2024, MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Hopkins at 7:50 pm.

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

Members absent: Paul Baumgartner, Amanda Detmer, Greg Schrage, Steve Stack.

Opening Prayer was offered by Angee Clark-Hellon.

No corrections to the May Minutes. Motion by Dan Jackson and seconded by Angee Clark-Hellon to accept the Minutes; motion carried; Minutes approved. In response to a letter sent by the Tuesday Faith Sharing Group, John brought up, as a result of their request for more transparency, the approved Pastoral Council Minutes from the prior month will go out to the parish. The best method to distribute the approved Minutes needs to be determined. Suggestions: Bulletin, website, link, Friday email, QR code or combination.

### **Old Business**

On the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage July 8-9, Fr. Kevin had urged everyone to come to the July 8 Mass at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Collinsville. Angee suggested a group or carpool be arranged between the sites and will mention this at the St. Ann's CCW meeting this month. Area third graders who have received their First Communion are being encouraged to participate at Ss. Peter & Paul.

Brenda reminded the Council that Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 21-25; the theme is Great Big Beautiful World.

Ministry Fair at St. Jerome St. Joseph Hall is scheduled for August 18-18. John is compiling the list and started making phone calls. The group suggested including different food items at the various ministry tables in the form of a progressive dinner or charcuterie board to encourage parishioners to attend, go from table to table and learn about our various ministries. Details to follow.

### **New Business/Reports**

**St. John Neumann:** Kelly reported that regarding the math scores comparison to the State of Illinois, Principal Hart would let her know when he received the information. She will check back in next month to see if he has a timeline. SJN is about to launch their new SJN sponsorship program with five different levels of sponsorship, now including a parent version. Their Golf Cassic is about to start registering teams. They also have a new sponsorship system in place. Golf usually starts setting up on July 1. They are working on the football raffle end of July and will be in the Narthex mid-July selling \$20 tickets that include the football season. Spirit wear can be purchased at All Pro Tees in Caseyville. Seven other classes have at least 20 students registered for next year. Fr. Kevin added that there has been some teacher turnover. First grade, second pre-K, music, and art teachers are needed after current teachers were moved around.

**Youth News Report:** Brenda is getting ready for Bible School and is now utilizing Sign-Up Genius with SJN for Donut Sunday so students can sign up and post their service opportunities as they arise. Maybe get two extra people to help out with Donut Sunday—pour juices, wipe tables, etc. The group discussed the benefits of using Facebook to post service opportunities as they arise.

**Census Report:** Dan reported that we are now up to 501 families verified—either to stay or to be removed from the parish. (488 families wanted to stay; 13 families asked to be removed from the rolls.) We started with 805. Yesterday, 304 letters (including a QR code, phone number and email for response) were mailed out to those who didn't respond to the original email request. We have not yet asked those leaving why they are not coming back. We may do that in a follow-up phone call to those not responding to the letter. Dan is working on revising the parish registration form and process by putting a QR code in the weekly bulletin to make it easier for new families to register as well as for online giving. Dan asked if St. Jerome had a Venmo account. It does not, but needs to be considered for making contributions easier. The word "donations" needs to be replaced by the word "contributions."

**Fr. Kevin Comments:** Fr. Kevin will be virtually attending the Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting on Saturday. He said that the Vitality Study just presented gives us all a lot to think and pray about. The topic of endowments is interesting, and we need to give the information provided more thought.

**Vitality Study:** John reported that at the Finance Council meeting he had just attended it was his understanding that after Vitality Study, the two groups would meet and discuss the key points. John would like both groups to take a week or two, read through the Vitality Study data, discern and come up with comments and concerns before sitting down to discuss. John invited Tim Poletti, Chairman of the Finance Council, to come to any of our Pastoral Council meetings.

**New 2024-2025 Pastoral Council Officers:** Angee brought up a previous By-Law discussion of setting up new Pastoral Council officers the beginning of July and inquired about the status. John and Dan had talked about this, and John desires to step down as Chairman but to stay on the Council for the time being with Dan Jackson becoming the new Chairman. Dan accepted. Dan asked John to serve as Vice Chairman. John accepted. Gail agreed to serve as Recording Secretary. Bylaws call for the Council to elect officers in July. John and Fr. Kevin need to sign the updated and approved bylaws before distribution to all Pastoral Council members.

**Pastoral Council Membership:** John and Dan reported that Greg Schrage and Amanda Detmer are wishing to step down from membership. Dan has discussed Council membership with a person from the parish to replace Greg so that we maintain nine voting members

**Seven Pillars of Pastoral Life (Evangelization, Worship, Word, Community, Service, Stewardship, Leadership):** Angee volunteered to work on the Community Pillar. The Pillars document needs to be distributed to all Pastoral Council members to help us learn where parishioners' interests may lie.

**Letter from Tuesday Faith Sharing Group:** Fr. Kevin recently met with this group, and the biggest issue is transparency in getting information out to people who need to know. He discussed this with the staff on Friday and their concerns are about communication. Consensus with the staff is that it is necessary for these advisory bodies (Pastoral/Finance Councils) to carry out some of that communication. Angee asked that as Pastoral Council what are we holding back? She sees the need for transparency, such as sharing the Minutes. She will continue reporting Pastoral Council activity at the St. Ann's meetings. Jan asked if Pastoral Council could go out into the parish instead of the people coming to the Council. Angee offered that status reports on various parish projects/needs (such as the plan to paint lines on the parking lot) should be communicated. Perhaps a Parish Council member could give occasional project status reports before each Mass, attend Donut Sunday and talk to the parishioners, and wear name badge at each Mass so parishioners can identify Council members and express their concerns. Get out among the people and ask for their feedback.

**Staff Job Descriptions:** Tom wants to see job descriptions for all the staff members so parishioners know who to go to when something needs to be handled. Jobs need to support the Mission Statement and Bylaws. Right now, staff job descriptions are fluid until we get the Music Minister hired.

**Long Range Strategic Planning:** On hold

There being no further business, the closing Prayer was offered by Angee Clark-Hellon; and the meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Next meeting scheduled July 18, 2024, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Wolff, Recording Secretary