

ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL AUGUST 1, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Jackson at 7:00pm.

Members present: Dan Jackson, Chairman, Paul Baumgartner, Angee Clark-Hellon, Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Amanda Detmer, Jan Gremaud, John Hopkins, Kelly Houston, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Brenda Neumann, Greg Schrage, Betsy Weinel, Gail Wolff

Member absent: Tom Mines

Opening Prayer was offered by Dan Jackson.

No corrections to the July Minutes. Motion was made by John Hopkins and seconded by Angee Clark-Hellon to accept the Minutes; motion carried; Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin reported that he has been working on liturgical music during the past two weeks. Regarding the July Guatemala trip, Lucy Ehrhardt and Erin Stark are planning a presentation on our visit to our sister parishes after a 10:30 Mass late in August or perhaps on the September 8 or 15 weekends.

Written Reports: Due to the short time frame since the last meeting, no written reports were requested, but we received reports from Youth Ministry and St. John Neumann. No one had questions on these reports.

Old Business

Section 2 of Pastoral Council Bylaws: Paul led the discussion regarding the two statements in Article II, Section 2: "The Pastoral Council shall be the planning, consultative and policy-formulating body in all matters of the parish, including but not limited to spiritual, education, social concerns and physical plant." Paul got the impression that, following our last discussion, we were heading in a spiritual direction for the Pastoral Council. Whereas the Bylaws specifically state that we should work with the Finance Council for the financial stability of the parish. Betsy added that the spiritual aspect was emphasized when it came to ownership of the two sides of the capital campaign. Paul's question is how is the Pastoral Council going to do this? If it is in our Bylaws, we are kind of obligated to do it (education, social concerns and physical plant).

Dan agreed and added that one of the ways we do that is under the 7 Pillars--where one of the Pillars is Stewardship. Stewardship has a lot of the physical plant responsibilities in that. Remembering "Build or Not" if the parish wants to undertake any kind of major construction, that recommendation has to come from the Pastoral Council. We might emphasize the spiritual more. For one example, we operate at more of a disadvantage than the Finance Council as we don't control the funds for physical expenditures. Angee explained that the new Bylaws were written and approved because Pastoral Council wanted to have a say. Finance and Pastoral Councils need to work together.

Betsy had attended the last Finance Council meeting and there was discussion about forming a 5-person Capital Campaign Committee; and they wanted that information passed on to Pastoral Council so both bodies could work together. They will facilitate the Campaign throughout the community. They will be that team that liaisons with the Diocese, third party company and actually executes. John asked, "Are they looking for a Pastoral Council member to be on that?" Yes, Betsy added; and they thought because Paul has a familiarity with the physical and is on Pastoral Council, he would be a good nominee. Paul responded that he would like to help participate in that.

Pastoral Council has a big responsibility to the parishioners, as they are talking to each of us asking very valid questions about why things were already done, such as the new roof on 107 Wayland. Paul does not always have the answers for parishioners' questions. Betsy clarified--Greg Fleck from the Diocese came down from Springfield. He walked the properties. We prioritized the repairs. We tried to figure out which building would be more salvageable and which would make a better condensed office; and with Diocese guidance made the decision that a new roof here was the best first step, using the money from the sale of the Main Street house to pay for it. Also, the house is going to get new windows and a new door downstairs. These projects are already contracted. A lengthy discussion followed on how Finance Council and Pastoral Council could better communicate information on the status of parish projects in order to better respond to parishioners' questions and criticisms. The monthly Pastoral Council Minutes are published on our website, and both Pastoral Council and Finance Council have email addresses found in the bulletin to receive and respond to comments and inquiries.

Parish Census: Dan Jackson is happy to report the census is coming to a close. We started making follow-up phone calls on the 24th with eight people calling. Four of the eight have completed their calls. Total disposition of where we are: Started with 806 families; have 482 who said they are active at St. Jerome; 54 families said they no longer belong; 5 are deceased. Right now, we have 268 that we have been unable to contact via email, letter, and phone.

Old Business – (continued)

August 17-18 Ministry Fair: John reported that we are still on track for the Fair. John, Brenda and Angee will meet after Pastoral Council. Suggestions were made to move the Ministry Fair into September, but there were too many scheduling conflicts. They will email Pastoral Council members with a status report. In addition to advertising the Ministry Fair in the bulletin, Fr. Kevin can announce it at Masses. Sr. Linda Mary will post it on the video screen in the narthex.

Liturgist/Music Director Search: John talked to Dani Boulanger who has turned down the position. Her position at McGivney is just too demanding. She will not take on the position as Music Director. Dani is willing to play for us periodically at weekend Masses. The search committee had revised the job description for her and really tailored it down to basically music—selection, scheduling, playing and coordinating with other musicians. There are still two more people who are on vacation that they wish to ask to play on a weekend, especially on Sunday. Steve Shininger will play at both Sunday Masses, but no one is lined up for Saturday. John is considering revising the job description and just make it Music Director, publish it and see if we get any candidates. The now part-time position will focus on music with perhaps a stipend arrangement and no set hours besides being available for Masses and practices. One of our servers is volunteering to help. Dan suggested that we contact the new music teacher incoming to SJN and find out if there are any piano students that are St. Jerome members.

Angee asked if there are volunteers to do the liturgical work. John responded that Fr. Kevin is taking on some roles. Sister Linda Mary is helping out on the liturgical aspect of it. Jan is taking on the environmental/decorating responsibilities and there are several people who have been asked about assuming some of the other roles—training altar servers, training Eucharistic ministers or working with them. The software that schedules everybody provides an email that can go out by anyone on the staff.

Centennial Campaign: As a starting point, Dan summarized the needs lists, both spiritual and physical, that were submitted by the various parish ministries and ARISE groups. Angee commented on one item that is suggesting a monthly bulletin column from Fr. Kevin, similar to “Hey, Father” in the Catholic Times. Fr. Kevin currently writes a 900-word essay on the upcoming Sunday readings for another entity and would be glad to include that in the bulletin. He then described “A Mass in Slow Motion” that he did some years ago, where he announces ahead of time what is happening during the Mass. It takes an hour and a half, so that would have to be at the 10:30am Mass. Fr. Kevin currently writes material for the commentator at Quincy, and will think about these suggestions. Dan concluded that we owe Katie Price, as well as the Finance Council, the programs we might run and possible cost of those programs.

Staff Job Descriptions: Work still in progress.

New Business

7 Pillars Responsibilities (Evangelization, Worship, Word, Community, Service, Stewardship, Leadership): Every Pillar will have a person responsible for it. Angee wants Community. Paul volunteered for Stewardship. Everyone on the Council should review those 7 Pillars and next month be ready to commit to one of them and be responsible for representing that Pillar. It will be up to us how we want to carry that forth. Sr. Linda Mary advised that we need to pray and see what comes to us.

2024-25 Pastoral Council Goals: Dan added that the same holds true for Goals. We should have a set of goals that we are working to accomplish in this Pastoral Council year. Dan is asking each member to come to the meeting next month with idea of what we think those goals should be and discuss them. Finalize the list over a couple of meetings. Think about the actions we should take to achieve those goals.

Pulse of the Parish: Dan asked for any comments/concerns we’ve heard from the parish in the past two weeks. Angee brought up the suggestion received at this meeting for a sign in church announcing the hymn numbers. There was discussion that we have used various types of signage over the years. Location of these signs, both manual and digital, if they still exist needs to be determined.

Jan requested hymn book holders be attached on the backs of the last row of pews for those who sit in the pews and chairs against the back wall.

There being no further business, the closing Prayer was offered by Dan Jackson; and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Next meeting scheduled September 5, 2024, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder