

**ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 7, 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, Jan Gremaud, John Hopkins, Kelly Houston, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Tom Mines, Gail Wolff

Members absent: Brenda Neumann, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by Kelly Houston.

No additions or corrections to the October 3 Minutes. Motion was made by Tom Mines and seconded by Angee Clark-Hellon to accept the Minutes as presented; motion carried. Minutes approved.

### **Monthly Reports**

**Pastor:** Fr. Kevin submitted his "Hopes and Dreams" for the future of St. Jerome, and Dan forwarded copies to the Pastoral Council members. We are moving forward with the Centennial Campaign.

**Written Monthly Reports:** No questions on the monthly reports submitted for St. John Neumann, Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Office Manager and Bookkeeper.

**St. Ann's CCW Report:** Dan requested an update of the Guatemala water purifier project. Angee responded that to date contributions have been received for 53 water purifiers after only the first week. Father Kevin has pushed the project and donations are coming in after the summer Guatemala trip and video presentation. Dan asked about the lifespan of a water purifier and Angee stated they last 10-12 years with proper maintenance. Households receive instruction on maintaining them. Leftover cases of bottled water from the fundraiser were donated to Ministries Unlimited and opened cases of water would be saved for use at parish events.

### **Old Business**

**Pastoral Council Replacement for Amanda Detmer:** A nominee was suggested by Gail, and Fr. Kevin offered to speak with that individual.

**Centennial Campaign:** Dan reported that many Pastoral Council members attended the joint meeting with the Finance Council to discuss the items that were on the Centennial Campaign project list, and he has consolidated it down a bit. Dan distributed a survey that he had drafted up that would be delivered to the parishioners on paper and electronically for prioritizing the parish projects. Communication in the Bulletin and Friday emails will be needed. Some areas were combined such as deferred maintenance items, security enhancements, etc. Tim Poletti would work on getting cost estimates for each of the items. Parishioners would be asked to complete the survey ranking projects by priority and also indicate if they would support the projects. It was agreed that a new roof for the church and upgrades to the HVAC control system are mandatory and the first things to be done. After additional discussion, Dan will get clarification as to what the other projects entail.

**Rideshare Ministry:** Dan forwarded Fr. Kevin's email regarding a parishioner who requested a ride to Mass. Dan suggests we begin a rideshare program. John added that he and other parishioners had been picking up different people in the past, pre-COVID. We need to let the parish know that we are starting this ministry and someone needs to be in charge of it to field ride requests and determine who will pick up each person needing a ride. A team of drivers would be needed for each Mass. Angee had questions from a safety standpoint about how to manage various ability levels. John and Angee offered to contact her. Parishioners who can no longer drive need to feel they are a part of our church. Dan will put something in the Friday email and in the Bulletin requesting volunteers.

**2024-25 Pastoral Council Goals:** Dan thanked those who submitted goals. He wishes to put together a document that lists all our goals to be ready for next month's meeting. Please submit any remaining goals.

**7 Pillars (Evangelization, Worship, Word, Community, Service, Stewardship, Leadership):** In particular, Dan would like to see a Hospitality Committee with a group of people that reaches out to those who are new to our parish. He would like the Hospitality Committee to incorporate the ushers so that they understand that that's their job to be welcoming by recognizing the people as they come in. Now that Steve Stack is gone, a head usher is needed; and we may have someone identified. The Hospitality Committee also could be involved in Dan's second goal, which is to have a calendar that has a social event for the parish every month. These do not have to be Pastoral Council-initiated events. The Youth Trivia Contest in January is a perfect example of a parish social event. Chicken dinners can be social events. We need to think about getting together as a community. Angee suggested that this ministry could be part of the Community Pillar and she would be willing to work with that. The Council members discussed at length their possible involvement in the various Pillars going forward. Worship – Jan; Word – Kelly; Community – Angee and Gail; Service – John; Stewardship – Paul and Tom; Leadership – Dan. Regarding the Evangelization Pillar, Fr. Kevin suggested we read his "Hopes and Dreams" document; adding that we picture evangelization as something very outgoing and extroverted. It is really about letting the Word take root. Jan stated she learned that 99% of evangelization is really how your faith is brought out into the world naturally. It is not about knocking on doors. Sr. Linda Mary added that the Dominicans use the phrase, "the pulpit of our lives." It was decided that all Pastoral Council Members would be a part of Evangelization. Dan has talked to Katie Price about Pastoral Council training before Easter that would include the Finance Council and St. James Councils as well.

**Long Range Strategic Planning (Parishioner Engagement, Faith Formation, Communication, Facilities, Financial):** Dan asked for thoughts on long-range strategic plans, and John suggested taking one section and going through it as a group; then select different people we think could spearhead and lead committees. John described their efforts in the past. He suggested taking apart one section at a time that has been studied beforehand and be ready to talk about it when we meet, perhaps each month—communications, facilities, financial, etc. In addition, John will get the Bylaws signed and Dan will distribute them.

### **Other Business**

**Post-ARISE Programs:** Sr. Linda Mary reported that she was forwarded and is researching some information from Ascension Press on in-depth study of the Rosary. She has ordered one kit which includes 50 booklets to determine if this is suitable for small post-ARISE groups. Angee supported that effort and reminded the members that St. Ann's has rosaries and instructions to distribute to those who need them. In response to Jan's inquiry about what happens after ARISE, Dan's understanding is that each ARISE group would initiate their own programs going forward. Interest has been expressed for Bible Study, Bible-in-a-Year and Catechism-in-a-Year programs. There was discussion about how this would work. Fr. Kevin stressed the importance of the small communities' involvement in judging their priorities and sticking with them.

Fr. Kevin asked the Council to remember the following two parishioners and their families in their prayers as their funerals are coming up: Robert Golec on Friday, November 8 and Ron Walta on Tuesday, November 12.

There being no further business, Kelly Houston offered the closing Prayer; and the meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gail Wolff, Recorder