

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Jackson at 7:02pm.

Members present: Dan Jackson, Chairman, Paul Baumgartner, Angee Clark-Hellon, Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Jan Gremaud, Kelly Houston, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Tom Mines, Joel Petry, Gail Wolff

Members absent: John Hopkins, Brenda Neumann, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by Paul Baumgartner.

No additions or corrections to the November 7 Minutes. Motion was made by Angee Clark-Hellon and seconded by Kelly Houston to accept the Minutes as presented; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin commented on his "Hope and Dreams" for the parish document and to take note of the fact that this is largely an interior conversion. Fr. Kevin had received a request today having to do with praying for specific people who are sick during the General Intercessions at Mass. He has not been doing this; however, praying for the dead during the Intercessions has been an exception. The Bulletin does offer a list of people who are sick, and Fr. Kevin will talk about this during the weekend Masses. Brenda conducted a good training session for 16-18 new servers. In January, there are plans to train additional Liturgical Ministers. At a recent staff meeting, Fr. Kevin learned of a need for a grieving ministry/support group, as had been offered in the past. Jodi Roedl has been referring people to SS. Peter & Paul in Collinsville. Angee mentioned that there were parishioners who had conducted these support groups and she offered to reach out to them. Fr. Kevin asked about the progress on the rideshare ministry, which is covered in Old Business.

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

Old Business

Pastoral Council Replacement for Amanda Detmer: Dan welcomed Joel Petry as Pastoral Council's newest member. Joel thanked the group for the invitation to participate.

Centennial Campaign: The Campaign will be kicked off this weekend. Dan distributed the paper survey that will be used during this weekend's Masses, after the homily, to gauge people's willingness to donate and their interest in priorities (ranking them 1 through 9) of the various capital needs of St. Jerome campus. The survey will be announced in the Friday email and in the bulletin. In the next two Friday emails, there will be a URL for those who didn't complete a paper survey can go and complete it online, plus a QR code for parishioners to complete the survey on their phones. Results will then be tabulated. There will be no information collected on who is completing the surveys. There has been difficulty getting parishioners to serve on the Campaign Committee and Dan is suggesting that Pastoral Council members and others in leadership positions contact people they know and ask if they received Fr. Kevin's letter asking them to make a pledge regarding the Centennial Campaign and have they prayerfully considered how much they are willing to contribute. We will not ask them to disclose an amount. Angee suggested perhaps St. Ann's leaders could call St. Ann's members; and the same with Knights of Columbus. The consultant working with St. Jerome on the Campaign will provide talking points. An in-depth discussion followed regarding ranking priorities of the projects.

Old Business (continued)

Rideshare Ministry: Fr. Kevin asked about the progress of the Rideshare Ministry beginning with the recent request for a ride. The request for volunteer drivers was posted in the Bulletin and in the Friday email. People may need to be asked directly. Dan will next post a notice asking if there are parishioners who need rides to Mass and for them to contact the office for assistance in getting a driver. Angee reminded the group of possible liability when helping people with various ability levels. Fr. Kevin will check with the Diocese of Springfield office's legal counsel to get clarification on what we are able to do, perhaps obtaining a signed hold harmless agreement by the rider if necessary.

2024-25 Pastoral Council Goals: Angee discussed preliminary plans for establishing the Hospitality Committee with the base of that being St. Ann's and the Knights of Columbus, branching out from there, including a job description for Ushers. Before publishing that, she and Gail will review with the Pastoral Council members in February. Regarding Eucharistic Ministers, Angee would like to see us have more people. A discussion followed about in-service training for all volunteers, with a focus on the problems of laundering the purificators and the proper way to rinse the chalices of any remaining Eucharistic Species before going in with the purificator. Training was discussed for how the Eucharistic Ministers (regulars and subs) manage distributing Communion in an orderly and pre-determined manner.

Minutes Distribution: Gail expressed a concern from a parishioner about posting our Pastoral Council Minutes on the website, which we are doing to address a previous request for transparency from Pastoral Council and Finance Council. Paul expressed apprehension about publishing detailed financial information. Dan agreed. After a thorough discussion, it was decided to keep the monthly Pastoral Council Minutes on the St. Jerome website rather than print and provide hard copies.

Pulse of the Parish: Jan brought up an item on EWTN from Pope Francis; "All evangelizing activities depend on the Holy Spirit and not on pastoral initiatives promoted by us, stressing the importance of prayer." The Pope said, "All Christians should ask for God's intercession in the work of evangelization as it does not depend on us but on the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to those who pray because the Heavenly Father, it is written, gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." The Pope told pilgrims in St. Peter's Square especially if we ask Him in order to proclaim the Gospel of His Son. "The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor," he quoted scripture. Jan concluded that getting back to prayer is what must be happening first before we evangelize. Sr. Linda May reminded the group that ARISE has finished and that was about evangelization.

There being no further business, and after Dan passed around his family homemade Christmas cookies that the Council enjoyed, Paul Baumgartner offered the closing Prayer; and the meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Next meeting scheduled Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder