

**ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL
JANUARY 2, 2025, MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Jackson at 7:04pm.

Members present: Dan Jackson, Chairman, Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Jan Gremaud, John Hopkins, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Brenda Neumann, Joel Petry, Gail Wolff

Members absent: Paul Baumgartner, Angee Clark-Hellon, Kelly Houston, Tom Mines, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by Fr. Kevin.

No additions or corrections to the December 5, 2024, Minutes. Motion was made by John Hopkins and seconded by Jan Gremaud to accept the Minutes as presented; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin reported that new doors and windows were installed and they are already providing better insulation in the office building. We are taking care of what we have leading into the Centennial Campaign.

Fr. Kevin received numerous thank yous and compliments on the Christmas décor in church, which were well received by Jan and her team.

He then brought up OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) that had been active in past years. Currently we have a number of people inquiring about and looking forward to, with the help of Sister and Brenda, reassembling the team to meet the specific needs of these people. Fr. Kevin is looking forward to an emphasis in the new book "Right of Liturgical Order" of seeking to verify conversion, which may be impossible with children; but is very important in the case of adults. Verifying conversion is to be Fr. Kevin's top priority; determining that a parishioner did not go through the OCIA program just because of their spouse but because it would change them. Dan related his RCIA experience with Fr. Dean who told him, "Faith is a journey." After further discussion, Sister Linda Mary brought up the fact that there is no book for OCIA. Now we have a website, teaminitiation.com. Currently, there are some families attempting OCIA. A discussion followed on how to develop an OCIA program for St. Jerome.

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

Old Business

Centennial Campaign and Survey Results: Dan distributed a copy of the final survey results from the 4:00pm, 8:30am and 10:30am Masses along with online surveys and paper surveys that had been mailed in or dropped off, totaling 133 surveys. A significant number of people support all the projects, except the Narthex extension, with slightly over 50% support. Everything else has over 70% support, the cost of which totals up to less than our target of one million dollars. So, if we reach our target, we should be able to do all of those. Considering the ranking, the project averages came in very close to each other, except for Audio/Visual and Narthex Extension which stand by themselves. Pastoral Council members discussed implementing the various projects, such as the chair lift, and comments/suggestions parishioners had added to the surveys. The Council discussed inquiries about our insurance paying for part of the roof replacement, and that we may be past any deadline to file a claim. Dan will submit the survey results to the Centennial Committee. The next step will involve Amanda Dotzert's bringing in consultants to meet with various Council members and the Centennial Committee.

Rideshare Ministry: The parishioner who needed a ride to Mass has been unable to go because of a foot injury. Council members discussed liability to us as individuals and to St. Jerome should there be an accident. Fr. Kevin is checking with the Diocesan lawyer. So far, there has been no response to the postings requesting drivers or for those needing rides to Mass. There is group of people along with Fr. Kevin who regularly take Communion to homebound parishioners on Fridays. Next step is to post in the bulletin that the Rideshare Ministry has started. Sr. Linda Mary will simplify what is on the video screen in the Narthex. As the ministry grows, we will need a group of volunteer back-up drivers for each Mass and a coordinator/point of contact to ensure that each ride request is filled.

Old Business (continued)

Grief Ministry: At the December meeting Fr. Kevin mentioned that we need to start a grief ministry. Angee (who is absent) had expressed interest in this. Sr. Linda Mary added that Angee was going to talk to a couple of ladies in the parish who have past experience.

New Business

St. Joseph Hall Rental: At the present time, we do not rent out St. Joseph Hall. There was a recent request which was quite reasonable for a wedding anniversary celebration. The response was that we do not rent it out. Should we rent it out only to parishioners? Would we charge them something? Dan responded yes, to pay for a cleaning service afterward. Fr. Kevin said we could explore this. Brenda cautioned that with PSR on Sunday morning after a Saturday night rental, a service would have to come in after the event late on Saturday night to clean, mop and reposition the walls, etc. Or the group would need to do this themselves just like renting the KC hall out in Blackjack. Using St. Joseph Hall would depend on its availability.

Monthly Fellowship Calendar: Dan would like to see one community event for the parish planned for each month. January would be the Youth Group Trivia Contest. There is a March Mardi Gras event in the works.

Pulse of the Parish

Snow Removal: Jan saw on Facebook that we were looking for a snow removal person for the weekend. Brenda said there has been little response. We need someone licensed and bonded. Options and ideas were explored. The coming weekend is covered.

Stewardship: Joel asked if there are people in the parish who can volunteer skills such as HVAC, plumbing, snow removal, landscaping, etc. Dan responded that if we are going to ask parishioners to volunteer their skills, we need to do that in conjunction with a Stewardship Sunday event, which involves the Finance Council, i.e., time, treasure, talent. Sister Linda Mary added that new parishioners submit that information which she maintains in our Servant Keeper program. Jodi may have this data as well.

There being no further business, Fr. Kevin offered the closing Prayer; and the meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Next meeting scheduled Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder