Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

December 5th, 2023

Absent: Mike Butcher, Jesus Estrada Ramirez, Juan Gutierrez, and MaryJo Stonecipher

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Amy, who also opened our meeting with a prayer.
2. The November minutes were approved.
3. Open Issues/Old Business
4. Parish Outreach
5. How can we help the Outreach group?

We will encourage the leaders to let us know what we can do to help them.

1. Should we be doing more as a Church and, if so, what?

A discussion was held concerning the possibility of having turkey boxes next year, both for our parishioners who are in need, as well as working with other churches for the entire community.

Jane suggested we have the turkey boxes set upP for Thanksgiving similar to how we do our Angel Tree for Christmas. More discussion will follow during our next meeting.

1. Coffee and Doughnuts report

Jane reported that our November gathering was a success! We decided as a group to cancel for December because of the holidays falling on the last two Sundays. We will return on January 28th, with Amy and Mike hosting.

1. Newcomers Welcome

Father suggested having a Newcomers Welcome Dinner. After some discussion, a date was decided; Sunday, April 21st, at 5:30 pm. Parishioners will be asked to bring their favorite dish, and packets for new parishioners that have joined our church in 2023 through March of 2024 will be made available. More information will be forthcoming.

1. Basement/Building subcommittee

All agreed that having a maintenance/project committee will help with ongoing projects happening in our parish.

Father informed us that the Archdiocese just let him know that our parish has been approved to be exempted from assessment for two years, beginning in March of 2024. This will enable our parish to complete several projects.

Steve Bannon will be the chairperson of the bishop’s Annual Appeal, as well as the upcoming Capital Campaign. Mike Yarbrough will be on this committee, as well, and both Steve and Mike will be actively seeking other members from our parish community. More information will follow as this committee gets up and fully running by March of 2024.

Ron Taylor, as the representative of our Finance Committee, stated that he has organizational guidelines that will be able to help this Maintenance Committee get organized, which will also help with asking people who have interests and knowledge and skills that can come through by being a part of this committee.

We will follow-up with this discussion after the first of the year.

1. New Business
2. Getting Parishioners more involved
3. Parish Missions

Jane spoke about the possibility of having a mission in our church. All of us that were present agreed to having Jane research this idea and bring the information to January’s meeting. We did agree that we would invite other local parishes to join in once we gather all of the information.

1. Announcements/interactive conversations/signs at gatherings

Amy suggested that we start having announcements or signs out during the parish activities that are held after Mass (doughnuts and coffee, Knights’ breakfasts).

Lisa suggested we can also use “bathroom news”, which means posting announcements in the restrooms on campus since this has been proven successful elsewhere. We can even post the app’s QR code since most people know how to scan that to get current information and announcements.

Also, announcements on the parish app that are recurring have also proven to be very helpful as reminders of what is happening in our parish.

1. 1 year discernment for Council members

Amy reminded us that our first year as a council is coming to a close at the beginning of March.

1. Announcements for parish interest

Amy suggested we start putting out short blurbs in the announcements to attract interested parishioners. We will be adding only a few this year, depending on those that will be leaving and/or who have already left. We want the transition to be a smooth one so, of course, we hope not to lose too many current members.

1. Retreat

The Jesuit House has a Spiritual Director who is willing to help us with a discernment retreat for both current members and potential members. Everyone was in agreement to have this retreat. More information will be forthcoming as plans evolve.

1. Our next meeting date will be on January 9th, 2024.
2. Mike Yarbrough said our closing prayer.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Vaillant