

Saint Pius X
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday – October 10, 2023

Present: Father Joe Wray, Katy Chattin, Colleen Ciciulla, Kristine Ericson, Mary Ellen Freyermuth, Katherine Horvath, Jerry Klug, Norah Morris, Marilyn Valerio, Robin Versch, Erica Williamson, Mary Coyle

Absent: Bill Fell, Sam Griffin, Barb Houlden, Cindy Johnson, Faith Kurtyka, Jerry Morrissey

I. Call to Order

Pastoral Council President Erica Williamson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Opening Prayer

Kristine Ericson led the opening prayer.

III. Roll Call

Mary Coyle recorded the names of those in attendance.

IV. Reflection Question

Kristine asked members to respond to the question: “What would you like to see the Pastoral Council achieve this year?”

- ☐ Jerry Klug and Mary Ellen Freyermuth both said the Council should work at getting a better understanding of the financial goals of the parish. Is there a program being developed to raise funds for the parish?
- ☐ Robin Versch said the condition of the Parish Center needs to be addressed.
- ☐ Mary Ellen suggested transparency for the Pastoral Council by helping parishioners know who is on the Council. Suggestions included Pastoral Council members attending the same Mass as well as introductions and discussions of the mission of the Council with parishioners.

V. Review and approve Minutes of September 12, 2023

Erica called attention to “**Part J – Other**” in the minutes of September 12 concerning the availability of large-print missalettes. Erica spoke to Cindy Johnson who said the current missalettes are large print. Kristine Ericson moved the minutes of September 12 be approved with no revisions. Marilyn Valerio seconded the motion. The September 12, 2023 minutes were approved.

VI. Old Business

A. Finance Report

- ☐ Mary Ellen provided a follow-up to last month’s discussion of parish finances. She distributed a copy of the Archdiocese of Omaha AAF Assessment (revised on April 1, 2008). The hand-out included a purpose statement and an explanation of the annual assessment of each parish required by the Archdiocese. Mary Ellen said the assessment is “a necessary thing”.
- ☐ Marilyn asked if the assessment was based on the weekly collection.
- ☐ Mary Ellen said the amount the parish is assessed by the Archdiocese is based on a rolling 6-year average of weekly giving.

- ☐ Mary Ellen responded to a question about the parking lot envelope. She said that as of September 21, 2023 there was a little over \$95,000 in the parking lot fund.
- ☐ Father Joe said St. Pius X/St. Leo School has not contributed their portion to the parking lot fund yet. He said he is hoping to repave the upper level of the back lot in the Summer of 2024.
- ☐ Father Joe added that the parish is at least three payments behind to the school. He said the parish will likely take money from the endowment to get the parish up to date with the school.
- ☐ Mary Ellen said the parish is preparing additional financial information to share with the school.
- ☐ Katy asked if the number of parishioners has come back to the pre-COVID numbers.
- ☐ Both Father Joe and Mary Ellen shook their heads “no”. Father said we just don’t have the numbers coming back to church after the pandemic. Mary Ellen said the Sunday envelop collections are “way down”.
- ☐ Kristine Ericson asked what the attendance numbers have been at weekend liturgies. Colleen Ciciulla said Rita Ramos would have those numbers.
- ☐ Father Joe there are still a lot of hurting people, and our parish needs to continue to be a welcoming place for all.
- ☐ Colleen said Father Joe’s recent presentation on the Mass was well-received and is now posted on the parish website. It included a discussion on forgiveness, reconciliation, and acceptance. Kristine asked about the possibility of repeating it. Erica said it might be possible during Lent.

VII. New Business

A. Parish Center Update

A committee has met to discuss the condition of the Parish Center. Committee members included Erica, Rita Ramos, Colleen Morrissey, Rita Bianchi, and Brian Schiefen - the head of parish maintenance. The group discussed a variety of different types of flooring and decided to visit area churches in the next weeks to observe what types of flooring are being used. Erica said the committee will create 2-3 proposals and survey parish groups to assess their needs.

B. Grounds Committee

Erica said the storage garage was being reorganized. Food, plates, utensils, and condiments will no longer be stored there. They will be relocated to the parish center kitchen.

Clean-up of the parish grounds will take place on Saturday, November 11.

C. Meet & Greet Comments

- ☐ Barb Houlden sent a comment she had received. A parishioner requested an automatic door-opener be installed on the east door of the church. Funds for the automatic door-opener on the west side of the church had been donated. Currently, no funds have been donated to purchase and install an automatic door on the east side of the church.
- ☐ Marilyn Valerio said the lack of signage around the parish is an issue. For example, more signs are needed to direct people to the Pantry at the Parish Center on Wednesdays. The Human Needs Committee will be

encouraged to have directional signs made. Committee members will be responsible for putting them out and recollecting them each week. Father Joe said the Pasta Friday signs and Pancake Breakfast signs have been used for years.

- ☐ Kristine Ericson shared a parishioner's compliments on the music at the Saturday evening liturgy. The parishioner was enjoying the music as it was changing and growing – describing it as “wonderful”.

D. Volunteer for opening prayer in November

Robin Versch volunteered to lead the opening prayer at November's meeting.

E. Other

- ☐ Erica reminded the Council about Trivia Night on Saturday, November 4. Katy Chattin will be the M.C.
- ☐ The Pastoral Council is tentatively scheduled to meet in December. A decision whether to meet or not will be made in November.

VIII. Closing

The Pastoral Council prayed the parish prayer to close the meeting.

The Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

The Meet/Greet will be after the liturgies on November 4 and 5

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Coyle
Recording Secretary