

Saint Pius X
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday – November 14, 2023

Present: Father Joe Wray, Katy Chattin, Colleen Ciciulla, Kristine Ericson, Bill Fell, Mary Ellen Freyermuth, Sam Griffin, Katherine Horvath, Barb Houlden, Cindy Johnson, Jerry Klug, Faith Kurtyka, Norah Morris, Marilyn Valerio, Robin Versch, Erica Williamson, Mary Coyle

Absent: Jerry Morrissey

I. Call to Order

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

II. Opening Prayer

Robin Versch led the opening prayer.

III. Roll Call

Mary Coyle recorded the names of those in attendance.

IV. Review and Approve Pastoral Council Minutes – October 10, 2023

Bill Fell replied to the first point of the Meet & Greet Comments regarding a parishioner's request for an automatic door-opener be installed on the east door of the church. Bill said only west door-opener was approved to avoid school students' possible temptation to repeatedly touch the door button. He said fewer students have access to the west door compared to the east door.

Marilyn Valerio said those who run the pantry were "overjoyed" to have more direction signs.

Kristine Ericson moved the minutes of October 10 be approved. Katherine Horvath and Mary Ellen Freyermuth both seconded the motion. The October 10, 2023 minutes were approved.

V. Financial Report – Presentation from Parish Finance Committee

- ☐ Finance Committee members Ron Volkmer and Tom Hoarty were present at the Pastoral Council meeting to discuss the parish's current financial status. They distributed a hand-out summarizing the present financial situation, the Finance Council's proposal to address the situation and an implementation plan.
- ☐ Tom reported that the parish is currently in arrears approximately \$175,000 to St. Pius X/St. Leo School and the projected deficit is \$390,000 for the fiscal year. Additionally, the 38-year-old parish center needs significant renovations. Tom said parish expenses have risen dramatically over the past several years and there has been a steady decline in the number of households providing financial support to the parish.
- ☐ To address these issues, the Finance Council recommends a joint internally-run campaign to increase parish giving by approximately \$400,000 to address the parish deficit and to raise \$100,000 for parish center renovation. To accomplish this, the Finance Council proposes asking each parishioner to increase his/her Sunday, Christmas and Easter giving by 50%.

- To implement this campaign, a small number of general chairpersons plus approximately 20 or more individuals or couples (captains) would be tasked with contacting all registered parishioners to request their participation starting in late November. The outreach would include –
 - A letter sent to all parishioners explaining the parish financial situation
 - A pulpit presentation covering as much of the mailed data as is feasible
 - A separate financial eNews to all parishioners explaining the situation and asking for help
 - A direct appeal by captains to all parishioners in person or by phone
 - A comprehensive review of parish expenses
 - An exploration of additional methods of raising revenue
 - A directive to parish ministries to devote a full session of their committee to how that ministry can raise the conversation about the parish financial situation
 - A request to St Pius X/St. Leo School that the school encourage all families to have greater participation in parish life both spiritually and financially

Father Joe asked if the Pastoral Council members would “be on board” with this proposal.

Kristine Ericson moved that the Pastoral Council accept the proposal from the Finance Committee. Marilyn Valerio seconded the motion. The Pastoral Council voted unanimously to accept the proposal.

Ron Volkmer thanked Tom for taking the lead on developing the Finance Committee’s proposal. Now, he said, it is time to appeal to the generosity of the people of St. Pius.

VI. Old Business

A. Parish Center Update

Erica said the Parish Center Committee has developed a list of priorities for renovating the 38-year-old Parish Center. The committee toured several neighboring parishes and requested input from many parish ministries. Marilyn asked about the timeline for renovations. Erica said priority right now focuses on the flooring. Renovation of the kitchen is on a secondary list. Erica said she said she will reach out to Brian Schiefen - the head of parish maintenance - to begin the process of bidding the project. Father said the Parish Center was inspected last week. The parish’s insurance company suggested heavy mats could be placed over the problem areas of the carpet to avoid tripping hazards.

B. Grounds Committee

Erica reported the clean-up of the grounds last Saturday had gone well. Some men may cut more trees when the weather is nice.

VII. New Business

A. Mass Attendance Discussion

Cindy Johnson provided a chart showing weekly attendance at liturgies over the past several months. She said attendance is slightly up recently. Attendance at the recent Family Mass was high. She asked parishioners to be invitational.

VIII. Meet & Greet Comments

- Barb Houlden said a parishioner asked if an announcement about what items are needed in the pantry could be made from the pulpit.

- ☐ Faith Kurtyka asked why the lights are shut off so quickly after Mass. Father Joe said it's the sacristan's job to turn the lights off after Mass when they have finished.
- ☐ Kristine asked for clarification about the timing of the Meet and Greet. Those will take place on the first weekend of each month. The next one is scheduled for December 2 & 3. Pastoral Council members were reminded that their name badges are stored in the usher's closet. At last month's meeting, council members had discussed being more visible and transparent to parishioners. As discussed, one way would be for a council member to do the announcement before liturgy. Kristine volunteered for the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass; Mary Ellen Freyermuth for 7:30 a.m. Sunday and Faith for 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

IX. Other

- ☐ Sam Griffith volunteered to lead the opening prayer at the December 12th meeting.
- ☐ Colleen reminded the Council about the free Theology Matters "Seeing the Big Picture" on December 5 at 7 p.m. at the Parish Center.

X. Closing

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

**The Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
The Meet/Greet will be after the liturgies on December 2 & 3**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Coyle
Recording Secretary