

Ss. Isidore & Maria Torribia Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2022

Members Present

Fr. Pat Conner
Arthur Jones
Roger Parluski
Peter Olausson

Deacon Dave LaFortune
Joseph Trappler
Bill Owens
Michael DelGrosso

Joe Crance
Joseph Machuga
Mary Hickey
Anna Bauer

Excused

Joanna Colavecchi

Kevin Gahagan

Meeting called to order by Chair Anna Bauer at 3 PM

Fr. Pat led the opening prayer

Members approved the minutes from the July Council meeting

Members approved the meeting agenda with the addition of trees at St. Stanislaus, Dioceses bankruptcy, & Covid precaution.

Pastor Remarks

Fr. Mat Jones at All Saints Parish is on leave for 3 months following the closing of the parish school. We are seeing increased attendance with Parishioners from All Saints attending Mass at St. Catherine's.

There has also been an increase in young parishioners enrolling in Faith Formation classes in the parish. St Stan's has 15 students in the program and St. Catherine's has 27 students.

The new Liturgical year will begin November 27th. With the start of the new year we will once again have parishioners bring the gifts to the alter and collection offerings from the parishioners using the baskets during the preparation of the gifts.

The council discussed the need to keep families engaged and encourage them to be active in the parish without being demanding. The parish has to try and meet the needs of our parishioners with faith formation, participation in the Mass, etc.

Business Manager

Peter reported that our finances are doing well. Collections have been up. We are off to a good start with the CMA. Rita, the new Parish Secretary, is doing well in addressing the many tasks of her position. Several new families have registered in the parish.

A Christmas letter with Mass times will be sent to parishioners as well as the schedule being posted on our website.

The need to have an end of year financial report to the parishioners was discussed. This communication was a key point identified during the town meetings. The Finance Committee would be responsible to develop it. Volunteers could be enlisted to present the summary and be available for questions after Mass.

Wreath & Poinsettia Sales. The sales are up 25% over last year. As was done last year the wreaths & poinsettias will be delivered to St. Joseph's then transported to the other churches for distribution to the parishioners who purchased them.

Church Security

Bill Owens met with Rich Wager, NYSP retired, to discuss church security. Rich made several suggestions and Bill passed out a list of items to address for security and medical emergencies. Volunteers will be sought out to help address various items on the list. Topics to be address are:

Safety & Security Committee – Develop a written plan for each church

Medical Emergencies- Identify medically trained parishioners willing to assist.
Look into purchasing Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for each church
CPR certification training and Hands Only CPR training for interested parishioners
Assemble 1st aid kits for each church

Crisis Management – How to respond to protests – who and how to handle them
Identify other potential crisis situations.

Collections Security – already addressed in Dioceses policy & training

New Council Members

Fr. Pat informed the council that Sherry Sanford, Mary Hickey, Joe Trappler, and Art Jones have agreed to serve on the council. Fr. Pat told the council members “you are all here by God’s grace, it is no accident. The council members are an instrument of the Lord’s peace – using your gifts in the service of his people.”

St. Stanislaus Tabernacle – A box to elevate the Tabernacle was installed at St. Stanislaus. Parishioners can see the Tabernacle now and are pleased with way the change looks. Peter will ask Mike Ryan to look at the Tabernacle at St. Joseph's to see if something similar can be done there.

Council Officers

Mary Hickey has agreed to serve as Chair of the Council.
Mike Delgrosso has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair
Kevin Gahagan has agreed to continue in the role of Council Secretary

Harvest Dinner – Total sales for the dinner were \$1,425. The St. Stanislaus Alter & Rosary Society donated \$500 to the event with others donating supplies, pies, etc. It was a take-out dinner so many volunteers were needed to prepare and deliver the dinners to the hungry customers.

Website

Need to continue updating the website. It needs to be informative and current. Joe Crance, who is managing the website informed the Council that Facebook is more real time with the website being for information that is not time sensitive. All parishes in the Dioceses will be using Parishsoft so they can integrate with the Dioceses website.

Parish Strategic Plan

Joe Crance presented on the Strategic Planning Process. The plan is for a period of 5 years and the Strategic Planning Committee would move from planning to oversight of the agreed upon goals in the plan.

Goal 4.2 Implement FORMED. This has been launched in the Parish as a resource for information and education for parishioners. There has been a lot of activity on the site since being launched in the parish.

Goal 4.3 Standardize Religious Education in the Parish. This has been done somewhat but in support of our two Faith Formation Coordinators in the Parish, Julie Lawson at St. Catherine's and Sherry Sanford at St. Stanislaus, who are both running successful classes.

Social – Several programs are available to encourage social engagement and communication among parishioners. Meals/coffee hours, etc. after Mass develop social interaction and religious education opportunities with parishioners. Council and the Finance Committee should set priorities on how to proceed with this and how to finance it.

Goal 6 Evangelize. This would be directed at people who are not part of the parish as well as parishioners who are not active. The letter sent by Fr. Pat to the parishioners encouraging returning to Mass and volunteering for parish activities was an effort to address this and did appear to have some success.

It was discussed that 3 priests in the Dioceses are from Addison. Having a Mass with them as celebrants could be an opportunity for evangelization.

The Council has to prioritize goal in the Strategic Plan. This was tabled until the next meeting.

Dioceses Bankruptcy

An agreement has been reached between the Dioceses and the victims of the sexual abuse. As part of the agreement all parishes will have to pay into the settlement.

Church Directory

Volunteers will be needed to organize the project as well as take photos at parish events, Masses, etc. to highlight parish life as well as photos of parishioners. Spring would be a target time to start with the goal of publishing the directory by late fall.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be December 11th, 3 PM at St. Joseph's Hall

Closing Prayer

Deacon Dave led the Council in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned 4:25 PM

Respectfully submitted

Arthur Jones

Acting Secretary