



Pastoral Council Minutes

August 16, 2023

1) Roll Call:

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|------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Fr. Martin Martinez | Pastor | Present |
| Jim Harris | PC Chairman | Present |
| Tom Murphy | Growth & Development | Present |
| Debbie Morales | Community Liaison | Absent |
| Myrl Johanning | Finance | Present |
| Shelly McCullough-Cruz | Liturgy | Present |
| Irena Bostick | Religious Education | Present |
| Minh Solorzano | Music Ministry | Absent |
| Ben Gaska | Fiesta | Present |
| Luis Gonzalez | Spanish Ministry | Present |
| Trisha Leger | Women's Prayer Group | Present |
| Lety Estrada | St Vincent de Paul | Present |
| Cindy Parra | Staff | Present |
| Sandy Rivera | Guest | Present |

2) Opening Prayer: – Fr. Martin Martinez

3) Approval of Minutes: – The 9/19/2022 Meeting Minutes were approved.

4) Pastor's Report: – Fr. Martin Martinez

a. Capital Campaign Status

- Father reported that he is putting together a meeting with donors that is planned to occur within the next couple of weeks. Updates and opportunities will be discussed with donors at the meeting.
- The parish paid off the remaining balance on the FICO loan.

b. Facilities

Father reported that some repairs were made to the parking lot and to the roofs on both buildings. Father also stated that there would be an announcement at all Masses requesting help to clean up around the church. This would include cleaning up the rock (gravel) landscape and may possibly include adding additional rock. The Knights of Columbus might be a resource for assistance.

c. Daily Mass Schedule

The current daily Mass schedule is at 12:15 PM with the exception of Thursday. Father is considering sending out a survey to gather parishioner input on what works best for the parish. This survey will most likely occur in the Fall. Father mentioned that this year after Labor Day he would like to start having Mass in conjunction with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament early Saturday morning on the 1st Saturday of each month. Also, Father mentioned the possibility of having Mass with the High School Youth Group once per quarter or once per month.



d. Parish Safety – Porters of St Joseph

- Father gave an update on the Porters of St Joseph which is a structured program for the men of the parish, to train and provide security and ensure of parishioners, especially at Mass. The program also has a spiritual aspect that involves prayer and spiritual development. Since the PC last meeting, this program was promoted and several men expressed interest in this ministry.
- Father stated that the cost of this program was prohibitive and after speaking with Sandy Rivera and Luis Gonzalez; who both have extensive law enforcement and safety experience / training, it made sense to develop in similar program in house and forego the expense. Sandy Rivera along with the input from Luis put together a comprehensive Emergency Action Plan. Sandy went through the program in detail with the group, Luis said he would handle the spiritual aspect of the program. A copy of the program was sent out to the group for review.

5) Follow-Up Items

Pro-Life Ministry

Trisha gave an update and stated that the USCCB has put together a program called “Walking with Mothers in Need”. Each parish is tasked to evaluate resources; both inside and outside that are available to assist women in need, and to make this information readily available. The goal of the program is for each parish to know how and where to refer a pregnant woman in need. This is a 5 Step program that Trisha has agreed to take on for our parish. Trisha will work on putting together a core team and the discernment and development of the Program Action Guide. This will take place over the next 12 months.

6) Discernment Groups:

a. Stewardship

- **Fiesta** – Cindy reported that the parish has ordered raffle tickets and will work on recruiting Fiesta Queen/King candidates. Announcements for candidates will be made to RE students. Cindy will also collaborate with Ben regarding advertising, entertainment, etc.
- **Hospitality** – Lety reported that Hospitality has been on hold during the summer months due to weather and slow activity but pick up in the Fall. She would like to recruit new membership. Father mentioned that perhaps this could occur after Labor Day. Possible future activities could include a talent night. Luis mentioned of possibility of having parish pot lucks again that used to occur prior to COVID. Maybe a ministry fair could occur at one of the pot lucks.
- **St Vincent De Paul** – There is a lot of activity recently and there have been several requests for help with utilities. This has added up to a significant amount of money. There needs to be more promotion within the parish to raise funds. Lety mentioned putting together a slide show that shows how this ministry benefits the community. Also, St Vincent de Paul members will have a spiritual retreat on September 30, 2023.



- **Knight of Columbus** – Jim asked the group what the parish needs regarding support from the Knights of Columbus. Father mentioned that he would like assistance for the clean-up of church grounds. It was suggested that the parish needs 4 new white boards for each of the classrooms, and storage cabinets for the Youth Group.

b. Faith Formation

- **Religious Education** – Irena reported that the RE group has been very busy over the summer. The parish sent 8 kids to Steubenville West, also we had a very successful VBS program which lasted for a week and there were 50 kids that participated with 36 volunteers. Regarding RE, registrations are strong and still coming in. The program is close to being maxed out and it might be necessary to open up another Confirmation class. At this point, 147 kids are registered compared to last year's 164 students. We expect to receive more registrations and classes will start on Sunday 8/20/2023. Ben Gaska briefly discussed the creation of a Vocations Ministry.
- **Spanish Ministry** – Is very active and doing well but Father mentioned that the group should start thinking about organizing Posadas for the upcoming holiday season.
- **Women's Prayer Group** – The group is doing well and there is a solid core group of attendees. In the Fall, announcements will be made at Masses to promote the group.
- **Men's Prayer Group** – Continues to grow and is currently focusing on some catechesis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in conjunction with prayer. The group is using the Formed Website for educational content.
- **Youth Group** – The Youth Groups are back in action and there seems to be strong interest / attendance. There is a new youth minister, Matt Gomez who is doing a great job and he seems to have a lot of good ideas.
- **Adult Bible Study** – This ministry restarted after the summer break and there are some new attendees.

c. Spiritual Table

- **Liturgy** – Everything is going well and there are 5 people available for communion to the homebound.
- **Music Ministry** – Minh was absent but Father commented that there is currently coverage for the 10AM and Noon Masses. It was brought up that it would be nice to have an Organist / Canter at some of the Masses and at special events.
- **Altar Servers** – The Altar Servers are doing well under the direction of Raul. Sizes are being taken for new albs in both red and black. The new attire will all be the same style.



7) Finance Council Update

Apart from the news regarding the FICO loan, Myrl reported that the parish is operating in a favorable status and has sufficient cash reserves.

8) Upcoming Events

- a. **Arizona Rosary Celebration** - The parish is registered for the Arizona Rosary Celebration that will take place on Saturday October 14, 2023 at 10:00AM. The event will occur at St, Augustine Cathedral. We have 20 seats reserved and our Altar Servers will also be participating in the event. We already have the posters and the event will be promoted at all Masses in September. There will also be a Holy Hour on Friday October 13, 2023 at 6:00PM at St Pius the X Parish in Tucson.
- b. **Catholic Men's Conference** – This is scheduled for Saturday November 4, 2023 at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

9) Pastoral Council Business

There are still open positions (Secretary & Co-Chair) on the Pastoral Council. If we know of people that might be good for these positions, please contact Jim. The Charter was reviewed, voted on and approved by the group. The elections will occur when candidates are available.

10) Closing Prayer – (Father)

11) Adjournment