

St Joseph Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – 5/18/22

Call to Order- Dick Weller

Opening Prayer – Kathy George

Members Present- Fr Mike, Dick Weller, Bob Puralewski, Sarah Falor, Kathy George, Dave Collins, Tom Wenzlick, Mary Jane Boak, Chelsea Thelen

Minutes of the prior meeting – Kathy George

Education Trust Fund – No report

Youth Group – Dance-a-thon had a good turnout and raised about \$6000 for Ukraine relief. There were not enough signed up to do a high school mission trip this year, but they may schedule a weekend retreat at the St Francis Retreat Center as an alternative activity in June. Senior send-off will be next Wednesday to honor the five senior members of the youth group.

Nancy Poff is retiring at the end of this school year, but as of now there isn't a plan to replace her position. Most likely there will be a combined youth group with MHT in Fowler and St Mary's in Westphalia this fall. It may look more like a "traveling youth ministry". Sarah will see if her younger sister is interested in being the youth group's liaison on the Parish Council.

Evangelization – The parish is currently working on a Family Ministries website and hopes to have it up by the end of the school year. Fr Mike noted the dire need to address family evangelization. Possible plans for a New Family Welcome program were discussed. Items for the packet provided to new families could include Time and Talent Survey, "A Place for You" brochure, online tithing information, information about the school, sacrament policies and possibly a directory.

Discussion was held regarding Baptism welcome cards, and having a "hospitality/welcoming family" committee. Families on this committee could contact new families to introduce themselves as a member of the parish and a contact point for any questions. Tom and Dave will put together a packet and procedure for the Welcoming Committee.

Finance Committee – Meeting last week showed tithing was up roughly \$100,000 from what has been budgeted. Some large donations have been made, but regular tithing is also up. The net income has been added to the parish savings.

Diocese currently prefers churches to provide 25% of their school's budget. We are providing about 38%. There is a possibility that all parishes may be assessed up to 3% of tithing by the diocese to help fund schools. There would be certain criteria for the distribution to the schools of these funds, but those

parameters haven't been set yet. Susan is working on the 22-23 budget. There may be a tuition increase, but nothing is finalized.

Two bids have been received for the renovation project, and a decision will be made tomorrow. One has a June-December timeline, the other would have a September -February.

The Feast and Raffle raised \$174,000, less expenses.

RRM Committee – Fr Mike, Fr Eric and Fr Dennis (Fowler/PW) have been meeting about combining programs from the three parishes. There have been discussions about having a Regional Finance Committee and Regional Parish Council.

Pastor's Report/Comments – Two bids have been received for the renovation project, and a decision will be made tomorrow.

Outreach will begin for families with newly baptized children. A new marriage prep program is in the works. This may end up being a combined effort with MHT and St Mary's. Deacon Eric and Fr Mike will be working on this over the summer.

Member Comments – St Joe School is looking at implementing a new Religious Ed curriculum next year. Chelsea brought materials from a program called An Educator's Guide to Living a Virtuous Life. It includes in-class activities as well as take-home projects to promote family evangelization. Everyone had a chance to see a few of the materials used in this program.

Prayer for Vocations

Next meeting—Sept 21, 2022 at 5:30