St Joseph Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2022

Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Members in Attendance: Fr Mike Williams, Dick Weller, Mary Jane Boak, Dave Collins, Tom Wenzick,

Chelsea Thelen, Bob Puralewski, Scott Schmitt, Kathy George

Minutes of the prior meeting -Approved

Education Trust Fund: Fr Mike- Last meeting in September, nothing new to report.

Youth Group: Group is meeting on Wednesdays with Chris Groves, no youth group representative

present for meeting.

Evangelization: Welcome Packet prototype presented by Dave and Tom. Prototype included:

“Business items”- Welcome Letter, “A Place for You “booklet, Time and Talent form, Faith and/or

Columbia Magazines. “Hometown items”-possible gift certificates or sample products from local

businesses. Global Coffee and Hanover’s Chocolate expressed interest in participating.

“Education/Literature items” -Gus Lloyd booklets, kids’ missal books, info about Kroger Community

Rewards and local Christian community events such as the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Discussion was held, generally in favor of these items and others that may be helpful. We may want to

reach out specifically to members of our parish and the Dewitt Retreat Center for donations of gift

certificates and/or products. Having contact information and pictures of parish staff, finance council and

parish council available may also be helpful. Dave will continue to tweak the Welcome Packets.

Finance Committee: (Dick) Contributions are down about $30,000 from budgeted amount, but this routinely happens this time of year. Numbers may be slightly down due to services being held Wilson Center. We paid approximately $900 rent paid to Wilson Center last quarter.

The Diocese is assessing each parish 3% of their tithing amount for the support of the catholic schools. These funds are to be distributed to parishes that have a school to support. Parishes must meet certain requirements to receive this money. Our parish”s estimated assessment will be $37K. We have received approximately $35,000 to date (2 Quarters).,

Items to Address: The decline in the number of young people in our parish needs to be addressed.

Instead of asking parish members why they no longer attend, we should be asking younger, participating

parishioners why they come to church. Ideally, we could use this information to reach out to those who

have fallen away. A parish-wide survey may be one way to begin this project.

We need to keep families active in the Catholic faith from the time of baptism, through the other

sacraments and beyond. We should be expecting families who are seeking baptism for their children to

continue to participate in the parish.

There was a discussion of parents being unable to help in their child’s classroom or come in for other

daily activities. Some parents are feeling unwelcome at the school. Lack of in-person parent/teacher

conferences were a recent example given. It was also noted that most teachers would likely welcome

periodic help from a parent. Father stressed the need to be cautious, considering the prevalence of

recent school violence. He will discuss with Chris Wells (Principal) and see if there’s a way that we can start allowing parents to participate in the school without putting students in danger.

Pastor’s Report: Father presented examples of new Marriage and Baptism folders that will be provided

to families preparing for these sacraments. Materials will be helpful and include faith-based

expectations, along with practical advice/information for parishioners.

Father discussed a new marriage enhancement program in the works. He would like to start celebrating

“milestone” anniversaries in the parish.

In other Family Ministry news, a recent “living funeral” was held, with a dinner following. Father Mike

noted that this could be something to consider in the future, as it has the potential to bring families

together and mend relationships before a loved one’s death.

Other Comments/Thoughts: Nominations for Outstanding Citizen, based on the qualities of St Nicholas,

are being taken by the Downtown Business Association.

The Diocese would like to address the need for more Catholic high schools. Look for information on a

new capital campaign at some point. If anyone is interested in being interviewed about this possibility,

let Fr Mike know.

Prayer for Vocations

Next meeting: January 18, 2023 at 5:30 pm