St Joseph Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Sept. 20, 2023

**Call to Order** 5:30 pm – Dick Weller

**Opening Prayer** – Kathy George

**Members in Attendance** – Fr Mike, Dick Weller, Mary Jane Boak, Tom Wenzlick, Dave Collins, Chelsea Thelen, Kathy George

**Minutes of Prior meeting** – Approved without changes

**Education Trust Fund** – Considering a fund drive.

**Youth Program** –Father Mike

A new high school catechesis program is being used this year. It has a different curriculum than previously used that’s more user-friendly with a solid Catholic approach. Will be taught by parish members.

**Evangelization /Welcoming** – Dave Collins and Tom Wenzlick

\*New Welcome Bags are being distributed to those coming into the office to register. Smaller bags may be better, would be nice to deliver to those registering online or have then available after mass.

”A Place for You” booklet update: Fr Mike and staff have identified some group leaders and are working on contact info. Next, group leaders will give input about whether info is current or should be updated. List has been updated to reflect new ministries since last version of the book, and to remove ministries that are no longer functioning.

**Finance Committee** – Dick Weller

The Finance Committee approved carpet for the Assembly Room and the Overflow Room, as well as repairs on the organ. Bids will be open in two weeks for replacement of the windows on the north and south side of the school. Additional donations may be needed to be made for the cost of the windows on the south side.

**Items to Address** – A few loose ends are being tied up from the renovation. Squeaking doors need to be addressed and signs need to be placed prominently so parish members know the cut-out areas in the front pew are designed for wheelchair use.

Questions from parish members:

Will nursery ever be reinstated? No.

Will there be a “kids mass” where the kids’ choir sings and kids do the readings, collection, etc? The problem with this is that many parents don’t bring their kids to mass. It’s not feasible at this time.

**Pastor’s Report** – Fr Mike

A new Mass prep tool will be implemented called “52 Sundays” available on the web site.

Information was provided about the recent survey offered for parish members.

The deacons and staff leadership are involved with the Diocese Strategic Planning Committee. Discussion about energizing parishioners to take leadership roles in the parish. We should be thinking about ways that leadership can be promoted with those who are hesitant: possibly tie it to a mission or invite a leadership speaker?

Catechetical Reflections will begin next week until January.

Temperament testing called Clifton Strength Indicator will be implemented for CCD and St Joe students to identify their strengths and build on them. Different tests will be done dependent on grade level. Parents will be offered books to help build children’s faith at home.

There will be a guest speaker for Family Ministry in January.

Regarding First Communion and Reconciliation preparation: The Sacraments will not be denied to anyone. If a person is not ready to receive the Sacraments, they may be delayed until that person is better disposed to receive them.

**Comments and Thoughts** – see Items to Address.

**Closing Prayer**

Next meeting – Nov. 15, 2023