St Joseph Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023

**Call to Order** – 5:30 Dick Weller. Members present: Fr Mike Williams, Dick Weller, Bob

Puralewski, Tom Wenzlick, Mary Jane Boak, Dave Collins, Chelsea Thelen and Kathy George.

Special guests: Zach Theis and Bill Wentworth

Opening Prayer – Kathy George

Minutes of Prior Meeting – Approved without changes

**Education Trust Fund** – Fr Mike

Appeal a couple weeks ago during weekend masses, not many donations. Reviewed update

that was in the bulletin.

**Youth Program** – Fr Mike

Youth group on hold for now. Working into 2025 budget to hire someone for

Evangelization/Adult Faith formation, possibly Evangelization/Youth Ministry.

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

Tom and Dave are 90% finished contacting chairs of the existing groups in the parish, will get

copy of info to Fr Mike, Judi Thelen and Susan Mahoney when finished. Discussed next step to

promote, including possibly using a QR code. Discussed the need to reach young adults with

this information, and to possibly start more events like Bible Studies that are geared toward the

younger members of the parish.

**Finance Committee** – Dick Weller

Two months into fiscal year and receipts are within $2000 of what they were last year at this

time. All fundraising numbers aren’t in yet to do a comparison with last year. Window project

for the school is uncertain due to a change in the scope of the plan. Bids have been received.

The Diocese subsidy for schools is $7000 ahead at this time.

**Items to Address –** Dick Weller

Knights of Columbus would like to know if there are any projects that need to be done. Fr would

like to meet with them and discuss projects to promote families.

Saint Project at St Joe School was well done and they hope to do it yearly. Sixth graders

dressed as saints and did presentations for the rest of the school. Consider doing presentations

for entire parish next year.

Regarding the Kids’ Mass, Chelsea reports that the St Joe School Choir is singing at the 10:00

Mass on the second Sunday of the month. Discussed possibly letting students do readings,

usher, etc. at some point. This may bring families to church that otherwise might not be

coming.

Pastor’s Report – Fr Mike

Parish families will be invited to participate in the God Families program and the Trinity House

program starting after the first of the year.

Starting January 1 catechetical information will be given before masses on the 2 nd and 3 rd

Sundays. Info will be focused on building strong Catholic families.

In February we will have a speaker who will give a presentation on the Catholic Home as the

Domestic Church.

The case against the State of Michigan (Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act) was dismissed by the

judge. An appeal will be filed on the federal level, possibly combining others who have cases

against the legislation.

December 12 there will be a bilingual celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Strategic planning with the Diocese regarding parish grouping of St Joes, St Isidore and St Jude.

Common goal is to have an evangelization event twice yearly for the next two years.

Saints and Scholars, a Diocesan fundraiser will be happening in the next 18 months. Our goal is estimated to be approximately $1.2 million. There will be a moratorium on Capital Campaigns by parishes for the next five years while this campaign runs. This complicates plans to raise funds for windows in the school.

Next year the school will implement the Personality and Temperance quiz for 3 rd and 4 th graders,

and the Strength finders quiz for 5 th and 6 th graders. This is part of the program titled “The

Temperament God Gave Your Kids”.

The parish is looking for a new music teacher. Specifically, someone who can introduce sacred

Catholic music to the students.

Negative feedback from the new Sacraments policy is mostly coming from people not actively

practicing their faith, or those who don’t understand the policies. Is there a way to address

this?

St Joe’s School is equipping the library with Catholic books about saints, purgatory, the Brave

Books series and virtue-building books.

Prayer for Vocations

Next Meeting - January 17, 2024 at 5:30