

## Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

June 15, 2023

Zoom

*In attendance: Fr. John Dillon, Marianne DeAusen, Todd Grams, Bernie McGuire, Vincent Price, and Anne Russell.*

*Also in attendance: Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz, Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan, and Finance Council Member Ron Hays.*

- Fr. John called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.
- Council member Todd Grams made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2023 meeting; Bernie McGuire seconded the motion.
  - ➔ The motion passed unanimously.

At the Parish Pastoral Council meeting on June 15, Fr. John Dillon reported that archdiocesan attorneys had signed off on a contract for the parish's parking lots to be repaired and repaved. The work could start as early as July 5, 2023.

The work comes on the heels of a bidding process, in which five contractors submitted bids on the work. After parish staff and the Finance Council reviewed the bids, O'Leary Asphalt was awarded the contract.

Fr. John expressed gratitude to parishioners, who generously contributed to offset the cost of the project. "...it's really put us in a better financial situation," Fr. John said. "It's very gratifying."

Council members also received a briefing from Finance Council member Ron Hays on the possibility of the parish offering financial mentoring to parishioners. One resource the parish could consider adapting is the curriculum used by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program through Catholic Charities. Fr. John said the idea had "great merit," encouraging Hays to continue his research.

In other business, Fr. John mentioned two upcoming events – the Juneteenth Mass on Sunday, June 18, at Mount Calvary Catholic Church and the meeting of the National Black Catholic Conference on Sunday, July 23.

He also revisited two ideas brought forward by council member Ann Pierre at a prior meeting: having a meeting to discuss the archdiocesan, national, and continental synodal reports and reimplementing the New Parishioner Welcome Receptions. On the first issue, Father said he liked this idea and would explore it with Secretary of Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns Jeannine Marino. On the second issue, Fr. John said he'd like to host these gatherings for new parishioners in the Kuehner Room on an occasional basis.

"I think doing it every couple months with refreshments is a great idea," he said. Parish Pastoral Council member Anne Russell echoed that they were both "good ideas."

Under ministry reports, the following reports were given:

- **Finance Report:** In May 2023, Fr. John reported parish income of \$130,179.78 and expenses of \$130,071, for a surplus of \$108.89. For the fiscal year to date, Father reported parish income of

\$1.52 million and expenses of \$1.35 million, for a surplus of \$171,521. As of June 15, the parish was also at 77 percent of its goal for the Annual Appeal.

- **Haiti Ministry:** The Haiti Committee recently applied for a grant to the Sisters of Charity, so hot lunches could be provided to school children at the Bon Pasteur School; the application was successful. Fr. John also reported that the parish paid the next round of teachers' salaries; Anne Russell also reported that a Haitian dentist is providing some dental care at the medical clinic.
- **Communications Ministry:** Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan reported on several initiatives undertaken by the ministry, including the "Share the Memory" cards for Fr. John's Silver Jubilee and the "Communal Conversation with Fr. John" on June 10. The council members also briefly discussed the wisdom of publicizing the Parish Pastoral Council minutes, with Egan pointing out that approved minutes are already posted on the parish website. Council members discussed that it's important to make the minutes available but to review them closely before publication.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Council member Bernie McGuire reported that Guy Federico would be installed as the next Grand Knight of Montgomery Council 2323. He said the council had reached its recruiting and insurance goals. He also stated the council had raised more than \$11,000 for a new sonogram machine at the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, over \$3,000 for Tunnels to Towers, and more than \$5,000 for other charities.
- **Couples for Christ/Handmaids of the Lord:** Council member Marianne DeAusen said the ministries started hosting their assembly and that it was well-attended.
- **Spanish Ministry:** Fr. G said there's been a steady increase in attendance at the Mass in Spanish. He said the congregation welcomes first-time attendees with applause.
- **Young Adults Ministry:** Fr. G said there are five to six young adults meeting every two weeks. He said he has also been talking with parochial vicars in neighboring parishes about restarting the Theology on Tap events.

Fr. John told council members that this was the last meeting of the summer and that they would reconvene in September. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.