

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

January 16, 2025

Zoom

Members in attendance: Fr. John Dillon, Marianne Deausen, Guy Federico, Ann Pierre, Vince Price, Jose Silva, and Hoai-an Truong,

Others in attendance: Parochial Vicar Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz, Deacon Jim Datovech, and Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan

- The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.
- Regarding the minutes from the October 2024 meeting, Jose Silva asked whether there was some way the financial report could show whether there are any patterns in income collection; Fr. John said he would speak to Parish Secretary Donna Zezzo about whether we could generate some graphics. Deacon Jim added that the Finance Council receives an income statement showing year-over-year activity.
- Fr. John moved to accept the minutes from the October 2024 meeting and Guy Federico seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Beginning July 1, 2025, the Pastoral Center will change the percentage of tax assessed on donations to parishes, such that taxes will now be levied on special collections and financial gifts offered at Christmas and Easter, reported Fr. John to the Parish Pastoral Council on January 16.

The change means that St. Francis' donations will now be assessed at a rate of 14 percent. For example, if the total income to the parish was \$1 million, the archdiocesan tax levied after July 1 would be \$140,000.

Fr. John explained that priests were told the new tax rate will be offset by a reduction in the assessment made to the Priest Retirement Fund. Deacon Jim Datovech also said clergy received a document showing the difference in the assessments now and on July 1 and that St. Francis' share was a \$1,000-\$2,000 difference. "It should not be material," Deacon Jim said.

In the parish financial report, Fr. John gave the following report for parish finances in December 2024:

Monthly financials:

- Parish income: \$190,908
- Parish expenses: \$121,033
- Income to expenses: Surplus of \$69,876

Fiscal year to date:

- Parish income: \$741,028
- Parish expenses: \$677,504
- Income to expenses: \$63,524

Year-to-date budget:

- Parish income: \$828,224
- Parish expenses: \$815,836
- Income to expenses: \$12,388

Weekly offertory:

- December 2024: \$83,586
- Year-to-date actual: \$481,029
- Year-to-date budget: \$510,182

Fr. John also reported that Washington Auxiliary Bishop Juan Esposito had written him, saying the College of Consultors had approved the parish raise \$1 million for its capital campaign to upgrade elements of the parish campus. The pastor also confirmed that he had signed with The Moran Group to run the campaign.

Pastoral Council members gave the following suggestions in relation to the execution of the capital campaign:

- Make a critical list of priorities. It's important to show how we are spending the money.
- Publicize what is the life of the products we have now.
- Craft messages with young people and new donors in mind.
- In messaging, note what's in it for the person in the pew. Celebrate the hitting of milestones.
- Having renderings of large upgrades is useful.

In other business, Fr. John reported that Cardinal Robert McElroy would be installed as the Archbishop of Washington on March 11, 2025. He also reported that the parish had received a letter indicating that an order of sisters in Dubuque, IA, had awarded a \$7,500 grant to the Haiti Committee to serve hot lunches to students at the Bon Pasteur School in Haiti.

Under other ministry reports:

- **Knights of Columbus, Montgomery Council 2323:** Guy Federico reported that the Knights will hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner for the Haiti Ministry on February 2.
- **Couples for Christ:** Marianne Deausen reported that the Consecration to St. Joseph small group would be starting soon.
- **Adult Altar Servers:** Deacon Jim Datovech reported that several adult servers had been recruited. The church also now has six adult-sized albs, thanks to a donation from a parishioner.
- **Hispanic Ministry:** Fr. G reported that there are an average of 200 people attending the Mass in Spanish, with the core group numbering between 180-190. There are also two catechumens and four candidates taking part in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Las Posadas and The Three King celebrations at Advent and Christmas also went very well.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm