

## Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

September 17, 2023

**Council members present:** Alex Amado, Colleen Boone, Sandra Gallardo-Cook (on Zoom), Trisha Doumit, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Bill Engels, Jr. (youth member), Robert Harris (chair), Jim Lincoln, Judene McLane, Marie Parrish, and Charlotte Worthly. Mary Sutherland, parish secretary.

**Welcome:** New pastoral council chair, Robert Harris, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the school year.

**Opening Prayer** - Our Father.

**Introductions:** Members introduced themselves to the new council members.

**Maintenance committee, remodeling committee?** A few parishioners have approached Fr. Steve about forming a "maintenance committee". Some of the projects they would like to see completed seem more appropriate for a potential "remodeling committee". We need to maintain the current buildings, but starting large remodeling projects assumes that we are not going to build offsite. Fr. Steve has not heard much enthusiasm about moving lately. He also has not been able to schedule a meeting with potential donors who are crucial to getting us the money we need to move offsite, or even to do large projects here.

The maintenance completed over the summer included a new roof for the parish office house, which was in bad shape. It was completed by a new local company. We had insulation added to the annex and parish house, the mortar between the brick steps around the church is being replaced, and the lanterns in front of the church that were vandalized are being strengthened and replaced. A security camera will be added to try to discourage vandals.

Fr. Steve asked the members to consider whether we need a permanent maintenance committee and a permanent remodeling committee. After hearing from everyone, the consensus was that the council is not ready to give up on moving.

- The potential site, Pullman Heating & Electric, on Davis Way, is still technically available.
- A couple of members will work on arranging a meeting for Fr. Steve and the potential donors.
- If we sell the current site, we will take the important parts with us; the rose window, the front doors, the statue above the courtyard, all the interior artwork, sculptures, etc.
- The new site has wonderful accessibility, space for youth, like a basketball court, and visibility.
- If we stay here and fix all the problems, the church will not look the same as it does now.
- Not being able to buy any of the property surrounding the current church made remodeling much harder.
- Members would like to see fundraising begin for the future of Sacred Heart Parish; whether we stay or go.

Fr. Steve asked the members to consider that church attendance is going down nationally. We are not back to pre-Covid numbers in Pullman. A number of families with elementary school children have not returned. Are we at 80 to 85%? (*Editor's note, attendance is about 65 – 70% of what it was in September of 2019.*)

The consensus was that we do need a committee for ongoing maintenance, and they would like to start a fundraising committee for the future of Sacred Heart. Several members are willing to be on the committee.

**Current Covid-19 status report:** Signs of Covid virus are increasing in the wastewater in Pullman, although not as much as in Moscow. Hospitalizations are increasing, so we added back the 7:15 am Sunday Mass to give people a safe service to attend. We are still keeping the windows open, and using air purifiers. Not as many people are taking communion from the Cup. It is not a major Covid spreader, but there is a lot of flu going around right now, and it does spread that way. Eucharistic ministers are sanitizing their hands before giving out communion.

**Oktoberfest changed to Harvestfest.** It is on September 30, after 4:30 Mass, in the social hall. It is now an international event, not just German. We have food and music from Nigeria (rice), Germany (sausage & sauerkraut), Mexico (chili & tamales) and Korea (noodles with meat and/or vegetables). There will be a bake sale, and a beer garden, with beer & wine for \$5. Everything else is by donation. There's mac n cheese and applesauce for kids. We'll have a piñata, corn hole, craft table, etc. We are working out a deal with a local brewery for beer.

**Spanish-speaking council:**

**Harvestfest** – They are bringing Spanish chili and tamales. Sandra is making the piñata.

**All Souls Day:** We will have a bilingual mass at 6:30 pm, Day of the Dead bread, hot chocolate, and a Day of the Dead altar.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe:** The plan is to all events to morning. Las Mañanitas at 5:30 or 6 am, followed by Mass and breakfast.

**Music:** We are looking at new options; the books we subscribed to are not working well.

**Update on neighbors driving through parking lot:** During the summer, the landlord of the house on the west side of the parking lot contacted the parish office. The owner of the house on the south side of his property had blocked the driveway that his tenants use to leave the property. He asked if his tenants could drive through our parking lot if he made an opening in the fence. Fr. Steve asked the pastoral council for advice. They thought that would probably work, but we would need a formal, written agreement for the terms of use. Right now, the arrangement is still on hold, the landlord is talking with the neighboring property owner.

**Pastoral Council retreat coming up October 7, 9 am, in the social hall:** The council will go over the short and long-term goals for the parish. Mary handed out the minutes from last year's retreat.

**Next regular meeting November 12, 9:45 am, in the St. Charles Room.**

**Closing prayer:** Glory Be. Submitted by Mary Sutherland