

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

February 10, 2024

Council members present: Colleen Boone, Rob Cassleman (Zoom), Fr. Steve Dublinski, Robert Harris (Chair), Rich Heath, Jim Lincoln, Marie Parrish, and Charlotte Worthy. Mary Sutherland, secretary.

Opening Prayer - Our Father.

Parish Updates:

Potential building to purchase – House next to the parish office: Fr. Steve heard people talking outside his office. It was three of the four co-owners of the house next door, the one on the corner of Ash St. and Maiden Lane. They told him the house was vacant during the cold snap, and a pipe broke and ran for a long time. They were removing everything from the basement. These three owners did not know that the parish made an offer on the house several years ago. We wanted to buy it to expand our church campus. They exchanged information with Fr. Steve and asked what we would do with the house if we purchased it. We would tear it down. The value of the surrounding houses may be going down since many of them are vacant, including the two that are adjacent to our parking lot. This may reopen a road we thought was closed. We have money that was donated specifically to buy that house. It would be very valuable to have a presence on Maiden Lane, whether it was a parking lot with a sign, new offices, etc.

Homeless individual staying in building – Measures being taken: A 20-something homeless man has been staying on the couch downstairs by the bathrooms at night for several weeks. We are locking up on Sundays due to Youth Group, and on Mondays due to the janitor who works by himself. Several parishioners are trying to get him mental health and housing help. At this point we are just keeping him from freezing, not really helping him move forward. It is not easy since he is only here at night. We need to get a police check done on him if we can find out his full name.

Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumenates: The council took a break from the meeting to attend this rite in the church. Isabella “Bella” Filikitonga and Kenneth "Ken" Newman were accepted into the order of catechumenates, a first step toward being baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Update on Liturgy Committee – Importance of having this in place: We are working on forming a committee with eight or fewer members. It will include, among others, a couple of high school students, and an assistant director of music from St. Thomas More. We need a Spanish-speaking member who is fully bilingual and who understands the cultural differences among the many Spanish speaking parishioners.

The goals for the liturgy committee are:

- 1) To plan major celebrations, like Easter and Christmas.
- 2) To keep the individual music styles for each Mass, but set a vision for music in the Liturgy. This could breathe new life into the individual styles.
- 3) To work on coordination among the music groups, and include bilingual music.
- 4) To talk and plan better.

We would like to have a choir at the 11 am Mass. We need to figure out how to include different cultures.

Prayer, Bread & Soup: The pastoral council hosts it on March 13. We will need about six soups and five breads, and people to set up and clean up. We also need two people to help read the Stations of the Cross. The Spanish Council discussed either having one bilingual Stations, or one Spanish Stations after the second Fish Fry, on March 15. The Faith Formation Board is planning Stations oriented toward kids on February 28. They will move around the church with the Stations. We used to have eight to ten children at the Stations. Last year there were none.

Parish Finances: We are in the process of purchasing some certificates of deposit to take advantage of high interest rates.

Closing prayer: Glory Be. The next meeting is March 10.

Submitted by Mary Sutherland