

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

January 12, 2025

Council members present: Alex Amado, Colleen Boone, Rob Cassleman, Trisha Doumit (co-chair), Fr. Steve Dublinski, Robert Harris, Rich Heath, Bunnie Lawhead, Judene McLane, Phil Nelson, Marie Wallace Parrish on Zoom (co-chair). Mary Sutherland, parish secretary.

The members welcomed Robert Harris back from sabbatical in Switzerland with his family. He reported that their three months there went very well. They learned a lot, got to travel, and experienced a slower lifestyle.

Opening Prayer - Our Father.

Quick Review of Advent/Christmas: It was a short, busy Advent, but things went smoothly. Attendance was down at Christmas, maybe due to illness or travel. None of the Masses were full, 4:30 pm and 8 pm had about the same attendance. The family Christmas Eve Mass went well, with a very nice pageant, but there were fewer children than usual. New Year's Day Mass was well-attended. Attendance at the Mass of Remembrance on Saturday, December 28, was fairly low, but many people wrote the names of deceased children on the stars to put on the Christmas trees. It serves a purpose.

We have many people viewing Mass online. Since we started streaming the Spanish Mass a couple months ago we have more people viewing that (270) than the English Saturday Mass, (170). Alex said that the viewers are family members of our parishioners. Some are in other countries, some in other U.S. towns. The person who livestreams it passes the phone around so that people can say hello to their relatives.

The celebrations of The Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe went well and were well-attended. We advertised that all children were welcome to participate in the pageant for Our Lady of Guadalupe, so a couple of Anglo children were in it. There are good pictures on Facebook and Instagram. One member said it would have been nice to know how to find the songs during the singing (Las Mañanitas) at the beginning. The songs were in our Spanish song books, *Flor y Canto*, but no one was in charge of telling people the numbers. Also, there are only 50 of those books, so they can be hard to find. We have the money to purchase more books if they are working well for the Spanish community. Every Sunday we print out the readings in Spanish in a little booklet and put them on the tables by the holy water fonts. Alex will let people know they are there. We should invest in permanent Spanish books or replace the current missals with bilingual ones.

Update on Our Homeless Visitor: Ian spent an increasing amount of time in the church, playing the piano and eating pantry food, especially after he was evicted from his apartment in November. This was all right until his behavior began to degenerate. He was seen using weed on the premises, was disruptive at Mass and spread food around the bathroom. He was also arrested for trespassing elsewhere. Fr. Steve asked the police to trespass him from our property. He stayed away for a few days, then it was evident he returned at night, so we are locking the church at night for a while. Counselors who have worked with him think that keeping him out of the church may push him to seek help from available services. If he is seen at church, please call the police business line.

Faith Formation Small Groups Update: Faith Formation staff and board members are working on organizing the groups now that Christmas is over. Pope Francis came up with many ways of getting a blessing during the Holy Year. Small groups studying or praying about certain topics fit into that. Fr. Steve will explain how that works during Disciples in Dialogue January 16, 23 and 30.

Update on Facilities Committee: Fr. Steve talked with one person about joining the committee, who is not sure, and is trying to contact another. Alex is still working on finding a member from the Spanish community.

The Interfaith Connection meeting on January 8 to help churches find out how they can help the undocumented was rescheduled. They needed an immigration lawyer to explain that and could not find one in time. They hope to have one from the U of I Immigration Clinic (connected with their law school) by the next meeting, which is at noon Wednesday, February 5, at Simpson Methodist Church in Pullman.

Trisha noted that the Pullman School District superintendent spoke with school staff about planning for this. Schools are supposed to be a safe place. Worried families are contacting them. Fr. Steve said that there are many rules about what qualifies as sanctuary in a church. We need clarification about what those rules are.

Childcare during 11 AM Mass: No one brought their children to the nursery during the 8:30 am Mass in the fall, so we are only having nursery at 11 am from now on. There is preschool class for children aged 3 and up during the 8:30 am Mass. We encourage people to use the nursery if needed, but also welcome them to keep their children with them during Mass.

Altar Server Training Coming up: Our altar servers are in eighth grade and older. We need younger ones as well. We plan to ask the middle school and/or high school servers to come to the faith formation classes for third grade and up and talk about why they are servers and encourage the children to try it. Then we will schedule a few trainings.

Upcoming Events:

*Disciples in Dialogue: *Jubilee 2025, Rediscovering Hope*. Thursdays, January 16, 23, & 30, 6:30 – 7:45 pm.

*Parish Board Game Night, Sunday, January 26, 5:30 PM in the social hall.

*Baked Potato Blast & Loteria, date changed to Sunday, February 2, 5 pm.

Closing prayer: Glory Be.

Submitted by Mary Sutherland