

St. Columbkille Pastoral Council

Minutes

November 26, 2024

6:30p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

ROLL:

Fr. Dave Schatz, Fr. Bob Gross, Julie Kruser, Tracee Wellik, John Freund, Connie Palm, Laura Keehner, Nicole Schmidt, Bob Wuebker, Brian O'Donnell and Marie Ware.

Absent: All present.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM:

No additional agenda items.

PRAYER/REFLECTION:

Fr. Gross and the Council prayed the *Hail Mary*.

MINUTES

Council Member Laura Keehner moved to approve the Minutes from October 22, 2024; and Finance Council Member Brian O'Donnell seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

The October 22, 2024, Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes; were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Celebration of Grand Opening of School- Fr. Gross and Julie

- Invite the Archbishop to the celebration and do a dedication;
- Invite the Presentation Sisters Order as they are celebrating 150 years and started St. Columbkille's.
- The timing of the celebration is tentatively being set for October 2025. This would provide the teachers and students time to adjust and possibly provide artwork for a walk through;
- Small group tours are being considered following the 10:00a.m. Mass;
- A meal is being considered following group tours of the new school;
- Parents and fifth grade students could help with the tour and/or meal;

- A subcommittee is being considered to facilitate planning the celebration and grand opening of the school. It was suggested to ask the following: Parent/Teacher Association; past students who have an interest in the new school; and other members of the school and/parish; and
- The new school is a huge accomplishment for the parish and school.

Rebranding the Joy of Columbkille

- It has been proposed that we need to consider new ideas for the “Joy” (golf outing and picnic) as it may have run its course or possibly take a pause;
- It is being discussed if the golf outing in August should be continued or is August not a suitable time for this event to be held;
- Should new ideas be proposed to what the interest of parishioners are;
- A beanbag tournament was suggested as adults and children can participate;
- A baseball tournament, putting green, soccer etc. A tournament could be the 8:00a.m. v. 10:00a.m. Mass attendees;
- Each grade produces their own idea and theme for parish wide event; and the cost could be \$25.00 per ticket for five (5) games;
- A no uniform day for the school;
- The Knights of Columbus can make their own decision on the golf outing event; and
- New school opening - consider a simple but meaningful fundraiser and consider including the children.

Update of Parish Mission -Fr. Gross and Marie

- The Mission is set for March 16-19, 2025, for three evenings and the Mission will be a family friendly event;
- The theme of the Mission is being considering as a theme of “Hope.”
 - First- Looking at the Gospel;
 - Second- Allowing Lord transformation; and
 - Third- Share Gospel.
- Chris Bray is the presenter/speaker and has presented on “Radical Love”;
- Chris Bray has book titled- Resounding Truth;
- Chris Bray uses music to convey his message;
- Chris Bray is on Instagram and his website <https://www.chrisbraymusic.com/>.
- Considering small group book study to discuss the book and pray;
- The Mission is in early planning stages and will be working on marketing and hospitality;
- It was suggested to provide information to Wahlert on the Mission; and
- It is being discussed to have Chris come on Friday and visit the school including the grade school and Wahlert/Mazzuchelli prior to the Mission; and
- The Convent Suites is being considered to offer to Chris for him and his family to stay during the Mission;

Update on Catechesis on the Good Shepherd (CGS) (Brian and Bob)

- Spoke with the principal, Meredith Willman of the school to begin a dialogue;
- Meredith indicated the following:
 - Ten (10) atrium sessions throughout the year;
 - Ten (10) students in each atrium;
 - Four (4) year olds is the youngest to begin the program;
 - Train over the Summer. The training is ninety (90) hours to teach.
 - There has been some interest from some parishioners on registering for the training;
- Serena Freisinger and Jessi Rauen know the CSG program and how it works;
- The Impact program participants could be considered as instructors if he or she are willing to do so;
- Currently some children of St. Columbkille's participate in the Nativity Catechesis program;
- Loras students could consider taking the course to teach and this could be considered an internship;
- Partner with a religious professor from a local college;
- The Catechesis uses the Montessori teaching method;
- Catechesis originated in 1954- Italy;
- Thirty-seven countries participate in the Catechesis;
- It is important to understand the meaning of the "Atrium" referenced in the Catechesis program;
- The Mass is the heart of the program;
- Children ages 4 through 12 will be eligible to participate in this program;
- A program with religious formation with a relationship with God;
- Use the lower level of the convent as a place for the atriums. Once the space has been set it would allow the school to use this space on nights and weekends for the program for non-students of the school;
- The current space that is being considered for the atriums is storing items while the new school is being completed; and
- The goal for this program would be early 2026.

Update on Vietnamese Sisters (Julie)

- There is a three (3) prong approach on welcoming the Sisters;
 1. Kathy and Emily took the lead on renovating the space for the Sisters;
The beds are in, floors are done and painted;
Finish next week.
 2. Volunteer Drivers
 - Twenty (20) parishioners have volunteered in transporting the Sisters;
 - Their schedule is pickup at 7:15a.m. to Divine Word and pickup at 4:00p.m.
 - Two sisters have passed the driving tests;
 - Fr. Vo has a second hand six (6) passenger van;

- Need to coordinate driving schedule for the Winter months’;
- The Sisters have never seen snow, and they were provided coats, boots, hats, gloves. The Sister appreciated all they have provided;
- The Sisters wear boys/girls’ size 10-12 - sweaters, sweatshirts and are very thrifty; and
- Three (3) more Sisters will be coming in January 2025.

3. Integrate Sisters into the Parish

- They are on Christmas break until January 13, 2025;
- Spring break from March 10 through March 14; 2025;
- The end of year is May 9, 2025;
- The Sisters are currently Eucharistic ministers;
- The Sisters enjoy the outdoors and would enjoy the holiday season events; and
- The Sisters will be here for a total of six (6) years.

Update on School Construction (Fr. Dave and John)

- The crane is scheduled to be at the school on November 27, 2024.
- They had to change how the crane would be able to install the precast and now the crane will go in through the main courtyard and the precast in layers;
- On December 2 through 4, 2024 the precast cement for the roof, twelve inches thick and heavily built will be installed;
- Finish rooms in December;
- Scott Ganshirt will begin painting on December 9, 2024. He will start with one room and see how it looks with the bricks.
- Windows are in and should be good;
- Buy furniture as money comes in- see what furniture the school currently has;
- No bleachers are renovated at present;
- Three (3) classrooms per grade - K through 2nd;
- Grades 3rd, 4th and 5th have two classrooms with each having one spare room to stay on pace with the lower grades;
- Pledges start coming in 2028-2029;
- Plan is to tear out the radiators and shelving units; and
- The large expenses are the heating, cooling and electrical.

Convent Suites

- Plan a future meeting to tour the convent suites.
- Plan a discussion for more awareness of the suites.

NEW BUSINESS

Role of Sr. Kim Nguyen

- Sister finished her Masters in Ministry and Liturgical Music;
- She will start on February 3, 2025, and continue until February 2, 2026;
- There is additional space in the convent for Sister;
- Sister has instruments she will be bringing with her and plays a Vietnamese organ.
- Sister will have thirty (30) weeks in Faith Formation.
- Sister will collaborate with the school and students.
- Fundraising for one-third (1/3) of her salary; (Feb. 2024 to June 2024);
- In June 2024 Sister's salary will be worked into the new budget;
- Kathy and Emily are cleaning up her room for her arrival;

CLOSING PRAYER

Julie closed with a prayer blessing for the talents God provided us to share and for a safe holiday.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Date and time: January 28, 2024, at 6:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Shelley Hinke
 Shelley Hinke
 Secretary
 St. Columbkille's Pastoral Council