

St. Columbkille Pastoral Council

Minutes

March 25, 2025

6:30p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

ROLL:

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

Absent: Marie Ware and Bob Wuebker

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM:

None.

OPENING PRAYER: Fr. Gross and the Council Members prayed the "*The Angelus*"

MINUTES

Council Member Laura Keehner moved to approve the Minutes from February 25, 2025; and Finance Council Member Connie Palm seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

The February 25, 2025 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes; were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Boy Scout Troop request for dedicated space in Convent Suites building

- Pastor's Decision- Fr. Gross met with Rich Earles from the Archdiocese and an amendment to the facilities agreement between the Parish and the Boy Scouts would need to be drafted;
- The drafted agreement will be provided to the Parish Council for review;
- Concerns from the February meeting regarding other organizations/groups etc. and it could be utilized as a shared space when the Scouts are not using it.
- It was suggested to put a protocol in place for use of this space by other organizations/groups;
- Proof of insurance would need to be provided by the Boy Scouts;
- Fr. Gross has a meeting set for March 26, 2025 with Travis King for a further discussion on the project, renovations, shared space and agreement;

- I was brought to the Council's attention that some floor joists maybe need to be looked at due a radiator leak and it was suggested to have John Schwendinger be contacted;
- A discussion amongst Council Members and will let the Scouts know in the near future

Planning of School Dedication

- A committee has been formed for the planning of the School Dedication consisting of: Father Dave, Father Gross, Meredith Willman, Phil Borman, Tammy Huntington, Zoe Houlihan and Keri Gockel, John Hohnecker, Anne Rosgood and Julie Kruser.
- First planning session was held today with the Committee;
- Zoe and Keri will be co-leads on the
- The date of the School Dedication is September 14, 2025 beginning with Mass at 10:00a.m. presided over by Archbishop Zinkula
- There are plans to contact the Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon cutting ceremony to be apart of the school dedication;
- Following Mass everyone will proceed over to the school for a Blessing outside of the school;
- It was suggested to have the Knights of Columbus and Boy Scouts do a flag raising;
- It was additionally suggested to have bagpiper;
- It was suggested to have the Parent's Association; Home Room Parents and students involved;
- A suggestion for a newsletter to the teachers;
- Save the date on -Facebook;
- Teachers should not be obligated to attend the dedication; have a reserved area in the Church for the teacher and families at 10:00a.m. Mass; have the teachers stand in Church during Mass for a special Blessing;
- Have a meal following Mass/tour- check with the Morocco;
- It was recommended to have an RSVP on attending the meal and tour;
- Contact the media Telegraph Herald and Chamber (previously mentioned);
- Discussion on how the meal will be paid;
- Tours of the new school is a future discussion;
- Suggestions for tour of school- family volunteer for a grade- one hour at a time- reach out to Meredith ;
- Suggested to have fifth graders- bus tables at the meal; carry plates if needed- help at the meal; or help with the school tour;
- Reach out to Mazzuchelli and Wahlert students who attended St. Columbkille's to volunteer at the school dedication event and could be for community service hours;
- Suggested to have a bake sale- similar to yearly Parish Picnic;
- Contact Presentation Sisters to participate in the dedication/celebration. The Sisters taught at the school and resided there; request if any photos are available for that time frame;
- Have photos available on the previous Pastors and/or Priests- Karen may have these photos;

Parish Mission:

- The speaker was discussed and selected by Fr. Tom and Marie Ware;
- The comments from the Mission were a positive;
- The attendance each night was consistent;
- Chris Bray went to the school and involved the students in the Mission and had the school children participating;
- The quote Chris stated was “ Be different at Easter than you are today”
- Comments from the young generation was it as easy to listen to and did not need to know the Bible; talked freely regarding Scripture;
- The Mission was upbeat; right pace; perfect for Lent;
- Christ reflected on the previous night - similar to cliff notes;
- The Mission may have pushed some parishioners on his/her comfort zone (“Amen” part);
- Parish maybe somewhat reserved:
- Survey- help parishioners grow in faith and share faith;
- Faith can be a private matter;
- Music was very well done;
- The music some felt helped with Adoration but others preferred quiet during Adoration;
- It was suggested to have more Adoration; and
- Possibly have a guitar strum during Adoration.

NEW BUSINESS

Discipleship Maker Index:

- Fr. Gross and Keri Gockel was the main point of contact;
- All surveys were online and no paper surveys were conducted;
- Fifty-five (55) and older were the top survey participants;
- The survey consisted on twelve (12) categories;
- The top three strengths were: Belief- Scripture is the Word of God; Eucharist is the body/blood of God; and Recommend Parish;
- The top three (3) lows: Conversations-Confidence in teachings; Growth via: Forming as a Disciple; and Growth via: Music deepens participation;
- Use the data of the survey for parish goals;
- The survey was well promoted at the Parish;

Brainstorm Ideas for Usage of Convent Suites:

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- Weddings to have bridal and/or groom use to spend the night and get ready for the wedding;
- Bible studies;
- Retreats-quarterly;
- Airbnb;
- Middle school lock-ins;
- Youth Groups;
- Afterschool music lessons;
- Support groups;
- Classes- cooking; craft; quilting; etc;
- Meeting space for spiritual directors;
- Parish offices;
- Adoration;
- Event room;
- Food pantry;
- Additional space for Sisters- Divine Word;
- The artwork in the Convent Suites is beautiful;
- History of St. Columbkilles in Convent Suites; and
- Each room- have families decorate.

Welcome New Parishioners

- Have the staff assist at welcoming new parishioners;
- Develop a committee;
- Formally welcome;
- Welcoming and Hospitality Committee work together so they do not interfere with each other roles;
- Welcome packet for new parishioners- orientation- couple times a year;
- Welcome bag for families; kids bulletin; coloring book;
- Packets -depending on life stages; Masses; Other areas for involvement;
- Relationship with a current parishioner;
- Mentor/mentee program;
- Parish orientation;
- Loras has a “Launch into Loras” (look at);
- Young families- have resources online; and
- Staff encounters would be helpful.

CLOSING PRAYER-

Julie's prayer was to help bring the parish together and welcome new members and current.

NEXT MEETING:

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Date and time:

April 22, 2025 at 6:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Shelley Hinke

Shelley Hinke

Secretary

St. Columbkille's Pastoral Council

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