

## Pastoral Council and Leadership Team Meeting Minutes – 10/19/2023

Present – Fr. Sean, Deacon Poremski, Kris Budreau, Kim Datzman, Mark Flook, Jan Goetz, Monica Lohmuller, Bridget Schlebecker, Henry Senefelder, Chris Sheetz, Tony Sherfey, Deb Wallpe,

Absent – Kristy Gross, Jennifer Senesac, Terry Snodgrass

Fr. Sean opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Sept. 2023, meeting minutes were emailed to members prior to the meeting. No corrections were noted. Henry Senefelder made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Jan Goetz 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried.

Fr. Sean noted that although January 1<sup>st</sup> is not a Holy Day of Obligation, there will be a morning Mass at St. Charles. In response to the Bishop of Israel's request to pray for peace and healing, Adoration was held after the morning Mass on Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 9:00 – noon at Sacred Heart. Approximately 8 to 10 people were in attendance throughout the entire adoration time. Fr. Sean had asked members of the Life Teen program to serve at the Oct. 15 Mass. 4 Life Teen members responded. The participation of the teens was well received, and Fr. Sean is hopeful that this will become a regular occurrence.

Fr. Sean updated the council on the plans for a Parish Mission Feb 11 - 14, 2024. Fr. Declan McNicholas from for St. John the Evangelist, St. John, Indiana, will speak on Eucharistic Revival. Fr. McNicholas is the Director of Mission and Discipleship in the Diocese of Gary. Fr. McNicholas will preach at the weekend Masses with mission talks on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Wednesday, Feb. 14th is Ash Wednesday, the mission would be a wonderful way to start the Lenten season. A simple meal will be served from 6:00 – 6:50 each evening before the talks, which will be held in the gym at Sacred Heart. Life Teen will serve one meal, volunteers are needed for the other 2 nights. Advertising of the mission will begin after Jan. 1, 2024. Everyone is welcome to attend the meal and talks.

Deacon Poremski informed the council that the Ministry Scheduler is live, and the initial schedule has been set. Moving forward, the goal is that volunteers will schedule themselves. Two training sessions were held and were well attended, however currently there seems to be a slow response in using the scheduler by those that attended the trainings. Deb Wallpe will ask Jen Senesac to put information on Facebook, asking those who have had the training, check the Ministry Scheduler and volunteer for any vacancies.

Bridget Schlebecker updated the council on current and upcoming activities within the Pastorate. The Grieving with Great Hope group has one more session and will end with Mass of All Souls on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. John's. RCIA is going well. The Lectio Mary study was not well attended. Plans are underway for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual St. Nicholas party. The St. Nicholas party will be held in the Sacred Heart School gym after the 11:00am Mass on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers are needed.

Jan Goetz requested the council's input on the number of Advent books to order. The Advent books will be available at the weekend Masses, with any remaining books going to St. Charles and St. John. It was recommended to order 250 – 300 copies. The Council also recommended ordering 500 copies of

Matthew Kelly's Eucharistic miracles book. These books will be given out after the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.

The council revisited the list of possible historians to give to Missy Krockover. The updated list is as follows:

- St. Charles, Otterbein – Jim and Sally Stacey
- St. Mary, Dunnington – Gail Scherer, Mary and Melvin Pitts
- Sacred Heart, Fowler – Myrt Balensiefer, Leon Cyr, Velda Deno, Pat Richey
- St. John, Earl Park – Mary Rose Schellenberger, Pat Gagnon
- St. Joseph, Kentland – Verna Marcum
- St. Patrick, Oxford – Shirley Muller, Wayne & Bernice Oneal, Keith Glotzbach

The council then discussed the blessings, challenges, and future actions of the Pastorate's Vision plan.

Blessings received included increased participation in the Religious Ed Program, transformation of the Evangelization Team, increase in VBS participants and volunteers. First Communion retreat. An increase in the number of volunteers for the 2023 Pastorate Mass and Picnic, which helped increase a sense of unity. An increase in attendance at weekend Masses, and reconnecting with other members of the pastorate.

Insights gained while implementing the Vision Plan - Benefits of social media and the Pastorate website to keep members informed. The need for patience as we develop and grow. Better efforts to delegate so that others have the opportunity for formation and growth. Better communication and explanation of changes that are made within the pastorate.

Challenges of implementing the Vision Plan – Reduction from two priests to one and from six weekend Masses to three. The higher average age of parishioners and the need to increase participation of the younger members. Parishes were at different activity levels; a lot of ground was lost with the Uniting in Heart changes, and it is challenging to regroup and start over again.

Areas of importance to focus on over the next 4-5 years – Service and outreach projects, communication and leadership development, outreach to younger parishioners, re-establish the young adult group. More focus on local mission work.

Chris Sheetz expressed concern over the drop in donations for the food co-op at a time when the need within the community is increasing. Ideas for helping the local community included a Giving Tree or a second collection. Council members will reach out to individuals who may be willing to help organize some community outreach projects.

The next meeting will be November 16, 2023, at 6:45 pm EST, St. John's Parish Hall, Earl Park.

The meeting was closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned.