**Sacred Heart Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

**April 3, 2025**

Present: Laurie Overesch, Dave Erickson, Maura Seidl, Luke Fischer, Hannah Jensen, Dottie Borowski, Mary Beth Nienhaus, JoAnn Smolcich, Mary Mancl, and Father John.

Absent: None

The Opening Prayer was a Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus led by Father John tonight.

Laurie Overesch called meeting to order at 6:10

Review Minutes- Motion to accept the minutes from March 6, 2025 was made by Luke Fischer, seconded by Mary Beth Nienhaus, and carried to Approval by a Unanimous vote.

Old Business

* Annual Elections- One new member will be needed this year for Parish Council.  Both Laurie Overesch and Hannah Jensen will stay on from Parish Council.  JoAnn Smolcich has expressed her desire to leave the council, but will stay on if no one else steps forward to join.  Therefore, we will get nominations for one new Parish Council member and move forward with filling the position in April or early May.  We will also get nominations for a new Secretary Trustee.  The Finance Council does not need any new members this year.
* Planning Committee Discussion- Mary Mancl handed out a packet with eight areas of improvement and the goals in each area.  Ideas to reach the goals were listed in each area.  Our task is to add events and plans to facilitate achieving these goals.  She shared an example document that addressed one of the ideas and showed us how to fill out the document with the planned event and details about the event.  She chose forming a PTA for our Religious Ed/Youth program.  Father John shared that he asked other area priests if they had a PTA for their Faith Formation programs and no other Parishes do.  He expressed some concerns with this idea and would rather focus on expanding the group of Catechists instead.  Luke Fischer shared that if we could “team teach” in groups, we may get more volunteers if they were not required to teach every week.  Dave Erickson shared that we had a Parents group in the past to help with Faith Formation events and fundraising.  Maybe we should reform this group, but have a different name than PTA.  This issue was tabled as we are coming up to the end of Religious Ed for this year.  Mary Mancl continued to share the process of filling in the document with Projects and ideas of events.  This will be done for each area, goal, and idea.  Father John suggested we begin working on one or two ideas from the eight areas.  We went through all eight areas and identified six ideas to focus on as a first step.  We will address two ideas at each monthly meeting and create an action plan with events beginning next month.  This will keep the workload manageable and not overwhelm the workers.  We need to remember that the Planning Committee members have offered their services to help implement the project events.  We need to utilize them.  I will bring a list of names and contact information for Planning Committee members next month.

New Business

* Sub-Committee Updates- There were no Sub-Committee reports this month.
* Budget- Laura Savoie asked the committee to identify any budget needs for the 2025-26 fiscal year.  We will ask for a $450.00 budget for Fun with Friends.  We also will ask for a line item for Planning Committee expenses.  We know we will need access to funds as we implement the Planning Committee changes and ideas at Sacred Heart.  We will ask Laura for a $2000.00 budget for next year.  Father John shared that we can also use one by one funds for items that align with the one-by-one goals and are in the Planning Committee document. These include security additions, an updated sound system, Live Streaming mass and events, Parish Outreach mailings and supplies, and Youth bibles and supplies.  A motion was made by Father John to use the one-by-one funds on these items, was seconded by Dave Erickson, and passed unanimously.  Mary Beth Nienhaus asked for an updated report on the One-by-one account and Father John will bring that to our next meeting.
* Plastic Bottle Cap Project- Mary Beth Nienhaus shared the details of this project.  We would collect any/all plastic bottle caps and lids for recycling.  There will be drop off bins at church and collection containers for people to take home.  Once collected, the caps/lids will be taken to Indiana to hand in and the result will be profits to use to buy benches.  We would then donate the benches to nursing homes, care facilities, schools, parks, etc. FROM Sacred Heart which would be another way to fulfill our community outreach.  There are travel costs and purchase costs (at a substantial lower cost) associated with this project.  More information is needed before we fully commit to this project.  We will begin the collection phase and wait for more details on how/who will pay these associated costs.  Mary Beth sent a PowerPoint presentation about the program to all members and asked that we review it and direct any questions to her.  Mary Beth also shared her major disappointment that a mission trip to Clarksville, Tn. to rebuild from the tornadoes and floods from last year was cancelled due to the high possibility that this same area will be experiencing . . .. wait for it . . . Tornadoes and flooding again this week !!!  PRAY for these members of the Clarksville, Tn area.

Pastor’s Report

* Father John expressed that he has shared his thoughts and commented on items as the meeting progressed and has nothing additional to add at this time.

Next Meeting is Thursday, May 1 at 6:00.

Closing Prayer was a Hail Mary in honor of Pope Francis as he struggles with health issues led by Father John.

Hannah Jensen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Maura Seidl and carried to approval by a unanimous vote.

 We adjourned at 7:29pm

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Erickson