

Pastoral Council Minutes

January 4, 2024

Time: 6:45 pm

Location: SMIC

Attendees: STAFF

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fr. Strand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fr. Kevin Harmon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Chlebek (Joint finance)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deacon Dominic Lazzaroni	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Sem. Intern) Nicholas Waddell	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don Theisen (SMIC finance)

Immaculate Conception (Term-End)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Gresser (Trustee) 1-24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Swosinski (Trustee) 4-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Hernikl 1-26
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Franke 2-24 (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Staehler 1-26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melinda Jessup 1-25
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Ziesmer 1-24 (Vice Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Paul 2-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bob Jandre 1-24
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Harold Siercks (Secretary) 2-25	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Saint Frances Cabrini (Term-End)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dave Kohlmann (Trustee) 4-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mary Herdrich (Trustee) 5-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gary Coyne 1-26
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lysette Kopecky (Vice Chair) 24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James Surprenant 1-26	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dave Zimbal 2-24
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregg Jashinsky (Chair) 2-24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Murphy 1-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Siikarla 1-24
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy Spies (Secretary) 2-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dave Vogel 1-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Meeting Topics:

- **Opening Prayer**
 - Fr Strand opened the meeting with a prayer for the spiritual transformation of the Parishes.
- **Introduction**
 - None required.
- **Approval of November minutes**
 - Minutes were approved with corrections to Mary Herdrich and Mike Murphy term and end year.
- **Shared updates**
 1. **Stewardship Pledge Update**

Fr Strand provided updates on SFC and SMIC stewardship pledge card numbers and total pledges to-date. SMIC in 2022 had about 215 pledge cards submitted. SMIC in 2023 had about 283 pledge cards submitted with an increase in the total pledged amount. This increase may be attributed to an additional mailing that was sent out.

SFC in 2022 had about 559 pledge cards submitted. SFC in 2023 had about 597 pledge cards submitted for a total pledge of approximately the same amount.

Both Parishes expect to see a few more pledge cards come in to the office.
 2. **Christmas Masses recap**

SFC in 2022 had a total attendance for the Masses of 1646. In 2023 total attendance was 1746.

SMIC in 2022 had a total attendance for the Masses of 678. In 2023 total attendance was 695. While the total attendance was about the same it was noted that the attendance at the 4:30 Vigil Mass, usually the highest attendance, was down and the attendance at the Christmas Day Mass was up.
 3. **Altar Rail at St. Frances Cabrini**

Fr Strand opened the discussion reviewing the long tradition in the Church of having an Altar Rail in the churches. It helps to separate the Sanctuary and the Nave. The Prayer and Worship Committee meeting in December discussed distributing communion at the Altar Rail during Lent. It was felt this helps focus

on the Eucharist and the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Also, receiving communion at the Rail allows a more prayerful experience and not having the feeling of being 'rushed' by a person standing behind you. A more prayerful experience will strengthen our beliefs. The flow to the Rail will be similar to the existing process. Individuals may still receive Communion standing or kneeling, on the hand or on the tongue, just like now.

Some discussions were on how the Rail space might be divided between the different seating sections. It was agreed that the Ushers will be key, at least initially, in controlling and directing people until the Parish gets used to it.

The Council discussed that a message from the pulpit on the reverent receipt of the Blessed Eucharist is important, no matter how you choose to receive it. Some discussion was held on implementing this change during Lent as it may be to soon. One option would be to have the Eucharist Ministers stand behind the Rail. The overall consensus was the communication of the change, and why, is the most important step in implementing this.

4. Lenten Update

There will be a meeting on establishing small group sessions during Lent focused on the Jewish roots of the Eucharist.

Stations of the Cross at SMIC will be on Friday evenings at 6:30. SFC will have Stations on Friday at Noon.

Both Parishes have Catechumens and Candidates for the Easter Vigil, which will be at 8PM.

5. Proposal to make the Pastoral Council a "joint" council

Fr Strand shared that the general direction of Parishes with a Shared Pastor is going to a Joint Council. Generally one Parish would have a representative as the Chairperson and the other Parish would be the Co-Chair. Other Council positions would be divided between the two Parishes such that the total number on the Council would remain at 9. In our case, SMIC would have 4 representatives and SFC would have 5 due to the school. Some discussions were held on the merits of such an arrangement. The consensus on both Councils was that either method would work but the meetings need to remain focused. If the Council were to combine it would likely occur in June when Council memberships are filled or renewed. No decision was made at this time.

St. Frances Cabrini updates:

1. Church Renovation

Scaffolding is back up for some corrective work and painting. Additional wall framing and painting, along with installation of the Communion Rail top is coming up next.

2. January 21 Dedication

The Archbishop will be at the 10:30 Mass followed by a reception in the Mother Cabrini Hall. Fr Nathan will have a presentation and reflection at 1 PM.

3. March 2 School Auction

Preparations are on-going.

St. Mary's updates:

1. Rectory Remodel and Steeple Steps

Rectory demolition and remodeling is on-going. Good progress is being made but we were forced to remove all the old plaster due to decaying conditions. The good news is that will make the HVAC and electrical work easier to complete.

The heating unit from the Rectory will be moved to the Church and connected to the piping for the Steeple steps. That should be completed by the end of January.

2. Spring Fish Fries

Planning on-going for a sit down Fish Fry on March 8th and April 26th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Stewardship and Fellowship: Harold Siercks and Mike Murphy**

No chili dinner is planned at SFC at this time.

- **Prayer and Worship: Kathleen Paul/Mary Hernikl and Lysette Kopecky/Jim Surprenant**

On March 9th there will be a Women's Reflection in the Mother Cabrini Hall.

Now have 14 members heading up various areas such as Lectors, Usher, Environment, and more.

- **School – Anne Siikarla**

There will be a movie coming out on March 8th or 9th on the life of St Frances Cabrini. We are trying to get a special showing at the West Bend Theater and involve the school. Little Saints needs volunteers to heat up lunches from 11:00 – 11:30.

85 parents and children attended the Painting Party. A Catholic High School survey is on-going to introduce the idea with families and gauge the interest.

- **Human Concerns: Melinda Jessup and Cathy Spies**

The Angel Tree Christmas Program, which is part of the Prison Fellowship Ministry, went very well. 13 families with a total of 20 children were helped. Each child received 2 gifts, an item of clothing, and a fun item. The Samaritan gift tags also went well again this year. We had 50 gift tags and they were all taken. Rhonda's help with the collection of gifts and resolving computer issues was greatly appreciated.

The Giving Tree at SFC went very well. We were able to help out 65 families with a total of 242 individuals.

The Honduras / Twinning group is having an upcoming social. 63 students are being sponsored which is an increase from last year. There will be 8 individuals traveling to Honduras in February.

A trip to Haiti is planned in February if the group's safety can be determined. SFC has not been to Haiti in 2 years now due to conditions in the country.

- **Finance: Bob Jandre/Harold Siercks/Brian Staehler and Greg Jashinsky**

SMIC will be holding a meeting on January 26th. Communications up to now have been electronic. SFC financials are holding steady, as is Little Saints.

- **Faith Formation: Dave Zimbal/ Davel Vogel**

February 15th will be a meeting to review the new curriculum. On March 9th SFC will be hosting a Men of Christ Conference. They will be held upstairs in the church so as not to interfere with the Women's Reflection. A combined Mass for the two groups is planned.

The number of Confirmation students at SFC is down. A number of the students are going to the Holy Angles Confirmation program which meets once a month. In general, we have seen a large drop in Confirmation students.

NEXT MEETING March 7th at SMIC 6:45

Closing Prayer by Fr Strand