

**Minutes
Pastoral Council
April 20, 2022
6:30 PM**

Attendees:

Ex Officio

Pastor	Fr. Albert Bruecken	FrAlbertOSB@gmail.com
Principal	Karma Coleman	kcoleman@stgregorysschool.org
Business Manager	Angela Byers	byersangelasg@gmail.com

<u>Groups Represented</u>	<u>Reps</u>	<u>email</u>
Knights of Columbus	Rick Smail	rsmail2004@yahoo.com
School Advisory Board	Traci Snyders	tracisnyders@aol.com
PTO	Ashley Greeley	abgreeley@gmail.com
Maintenance	Mark Wiederholt	mkwiederholt256@gmail.com
iTeam/Evangelization	Russ Schuster	russellschuster53@yahoo.com
Finance Committee	Charles Mayfield	mayfieldb@outlook.com

I. Opening Prayer by Fr. Albert

II. Parish Council's Role

After a brief discussion, it was decided to use the vision statements sent out, in particular the one for the Pastoral Council, until it was found that we needed to change something therein.

III. Membership and Representation

1. It was suggested that we might include an "at large" member, and after discussion it was decided that we should see how things go with the current six voting members, as most of the parishioners are represented.
2. The membership consists of those chosen by certain committees or organizations according to how each organization prefers to choose its rep. The committees/organizations are the following: The PTO, the School Advisory Board, the Knights of Columbus, the Maintenance Committee, and the Finance Committee. Each representative on the Pastoral Council is expected to keep his/her committee informed of the issues that the Pastoral Council deals with, and that the representative should communicate the concerns or suggestions of his/her members to the Pastoral Council and vice versa. That way the whole institution moves along together, rather than one piece going ahead and with the others having to catch up. Ideally, everyone then gets a voice in the proceedings as decisions or recommendations are made.
3. The group suggested to list the email addresses of the members of the Pastoral Council, as well as to explain its makeup in a Bulletin Letter. This should begin to appear in the Bulletin for April 24th.
4. It was suggested that we have a box in the Gathering Space where suggestions could be placed for the Pastoral Council to look at, especially for those who do not have email.

IV. Establish Regular Meetings

It was decided to meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM, perhaps in the school Library. For now we would meet monthly. **The next meeting is May 19th, at 6 PM**, in the school library.

V. Elect Officers

1. Russ Schuster was elected President.
2. Charles Mayfield was elected V.P. with the expectation that he would succeed the current president in June or July 2023.
3. Fr. Albert volunteered to be the Secretary. It was suggested that the minutes be posted in a place where they could be referred to online, as well as in the vestibule of the church. Though no vote was taken, there seemed to be general agreement that the minutes be made public.

VI. Possible Projects

1. Need for more space for **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)**, which now has taken over the youth room and the meeting room for the church staff (displacing funeral planning, staff meetings, etc.). CGS consists of three levels: Level 1 is for 3 – 6 year olds; Level 2 is for 6 – 9 year olds, and Level 3 is for 9 – 12 year olds. Currently we have the space and personnel for Level 1, and have begun to expand the space and the personnel to do Level 2. Level 3 is still in the dreaming stages. It began shortly after Fr. Albert came, in the fall of 2017.
2. Fr. Albert explained why CGS was a priority. He saw the need to continue to develop the CGS both in our school and in our Wednesday night religion classes. There is a distressing trend which finds our high school aged youth absenting themselves in large part from parish activities. We need to do a better job of catechizing them, encouraging them to connect to God personally and through our parish activities, especially the sacraments. The best means of catechizing children (particularly in Bible, Liturgy, and Sacraments) that he knows of is the CGS program, and he would like to see it continue to grow in the parish. The Holy Spirit seems to have blessed its initial stages, but it needs some more facilities and personnel to continue growing. One aspect is that by beginning with 3 year olds (who do not read), the program allows children to bond to God early in life (even before they can read) and without the ethical dimension of the relationship, which comes about at the age of reason (ca. 7). We can do this in a more developmentally sound way by building on the early formation received in Level 1 (3-6 year olds). Eventually, we will need to invest more in our youth ministry for high school aged youth, but first we must build a more sound foundation. A couple of parents on the Council spoke of the favorable effects of CGS on their children, especially compared to their older siblings who went before and had no exposure to CGS. There is a difference.
3. There followed a discussion about finding space for various needs/wants besides CGS: a cafeteria connected to the school, an expansion of the pre-school, a chapel for Eucharistic Adoration, and two playgrounds. There is a need to prioritize the projects, but some preliminary things to be done and discussed before we can do that.
4. Karma Coleman spoke of her experience of members of the school community wanting to raise money (over \$200,000) for a playground(s) when she first arrived, and how it did not seem to be a united parish effort. She saw a need to prioritize projects first, then get all people on board and working together, those in the school and those who are not, especially since those who are not involved directly in school contribute to funding half the school's budget. This in fact is a key role of the Pastoral Council: to prioritize and unite the whole parish behind the projects which we do.
5. Mark Wiederholt spoke about how the Maintenance Committee was not involved in the previous project on the gym floor, and they found that discouraging.

VII. Next Steps

1. A schedule for maintenance in the future should be drawn up and presented at next meeting.
2. Megan Johansen should come and report on what the development of CGS would require in terms of space, personnel, and anything else that we would need to know to plan for its orderly development.

VIII. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is May 19th, at 6 PM, in the school library.