

## Holy Family Catholic Church, Copperas Cove, TX

Pastoral Council Minutes, August 17, 2023

### **Present:**

Fr. Augustine Ariwaodo  
Anthony Drogos  
Dianne Fajardo  
Don Whittenberger  
Lina Tuiasosopo  
Celeste Johns  
Rodney Davenport  
Tom McNew  
Robin Spencer

### **Absent:**

Linda McHugh  
Rosa Subialdea  
Emily Kimball

### **Ministry Leads Present:**

Orie Sanchez (Fall Fest Queen Program)  
Fred Doak (Finance Council)  
Mark Larkin (RCIA)  
Jennifer Deppa (VBS)

Meeting called to order at 6:20

Opening prayer by Fr. Augustine

Minutes were not notated from last meeting as Secretary was absent.

First thing addressed were concerns from parishioners quoted verbatim as they come in by Rodney. Parishioners concerns/questions are in bold.

**How will Baptism be done?** Father is not sure, but assuming this in reference to where the font has been placed, Father responded that Sacramentally the font should be placed at the entrance to the church, but since the narthex is pretty crowded, he placed it close when you come in. The answer to how is the rite will continue as normal.

**Why is there no vigil mass before Holiday of Obligation?** This is not a requirement. There were two masses at the last Holy Day, the Feast of the Assumption.

**Will the organ be played on a rotating basis for each mass?** This is dependent on two things, if we have someone who can play the organ at any given mass and if the hymn(s) chosen by the music committee can be played on the organ. Anyone with playing or singing ability are asked to join the choir so that we have more people to help with these types of ministries.

**Why is the total cost for all the renovations being covered up?** Nothing is being covered up, it was announced at the Town Hall meeting the amount allotted and that things were coming up every week (if not every day) that altered that price. The amount has been in the bulletin and can always be accessed from the Financial Council's site and the Financial Council meetings are open to all who want to attend. There is an itemized list available through this site or the office or Father if you ask.

\$522,943.05 was the total price, \$150,000 came from the encountering Christ campaign, we received \$41,000 in donations directly for the project, so the cost to the church, which we have cash on hand, is \$331,943.05.

**Why doesn't the Priest have established office hours?** Father is in his office at various hours of the day and night. He requests that if a parishioner wants to meet with him that they make an appointment by texting him. He prefers to work with his door closed as this helps him focus. He asks that we accept that this is how he works best, but he will be available to any who ask him to meet with him by appointment at a time that works for both.

**Why isn't Andre Chapel being fixed with maintenance funds?** When Father came he was aware of the already started project in the sanctuary, but not aware there was a problem in Andre Chapel until after all this was started. It is very time consuming to work on the project as large as the one in the sanctuary and to start another one when he became aware was too much to tackle at the same time. The money and project for the sanctuary was committed before he got here. It was suggested that perhaps we create a building committee.

**How much money is available in the local banking account?** About \$800,000, but bear in mind that 6 months of operating costs cannot be touched per diocesan policy. And some of the rest is earmarked for bills.

**Why is there 24 hr. adoration with not enough people? Why isn't the church following the Diocesan requirement for 2 people after hours of darkness.** It is not the church not following the policy, it is the people of the church not stepping up to participate in adoration. Please, fellow parishioners, step forward and fulfill this, many Graces are received through 24 adoration. We certainly have enough parishioners to cover many more hours than this.

**Do the Finance and Pastoral Councils not see a problem here? You have volunteers and the most knowledgeable maintenance man quit since Fr. Augustine has been here. The money that was spent to conceal the organ was a waste of resources. I know water under the bridge since the money is already gone. It doesn't even look like it belongs in the church. Was not a wise use of parish funds.**

The finance and pastoral councils are just advisory boards, any parishioner can run and attend and voice their concerns personally if they'd like. Father has put out an invitation to make an appointment with him if anyone has concerns that he doesn't have the best interests of the parishioners in mind. This project was underway and allotted before he got here, he had to see it to fruition. A staff meeting is held with the paid staff once a month and Mr. Novak announced he was leaving at the last one with no warning.

**Fr. Augustine has the nerve to spend all that money. Instead of adding new items to the church, repairs and upkeep should have come first. Such a shame.** Updates are done and have been done based on Diocesan requirements. See response above as a reminder that this project was in the works before Fr. Augustine came.

VBS was a big success this year. 60 kids, 75 volunteers (of which about 35 were youth) – it seemed better at the evening time frame, more volunteers were available, and many fathers were available. The volunteers were able to share their passion as they oversaw a different area. The money charged, \$25 pretty much paid for the t-shirts. It was suggested by the council to not have to have families pay for this event and should become a line in the budget. Father will bring this to the Finance council.

The parish re-dedication is scheduled for 10:00 on August 19 with Bishop Vasquez presiding. A light reception will follow in the FFC.

A Liturgical Ministry Lead is still needed for the ushers, many ministries still need volunteers, Liturgy of the Word for Children, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers. Jennifer Deppa volunteered to help Hector with the Altar Servers. Welcoming committee is still needed. Until one is established, Dianne will pick up paperwork and Celeste will help get something started. Father will put out the request for help in this area during announcements. It was mentioned the scheduling software is poor and doesn't work well for people to be scheduled on a rotation basis.

A volunteer appreciation dinner needs to be scheduled. Father will talk to the office staff to make this happen.

Orie mentioned that the fall fest queen program had a bit of a confusing turn when a parishioner wanted to sell items from an outside entity to raise funds and have the church receive 10% of the proceeds for their candidate. This was turned down as this was not the intent of the program. Orie is hoping to come up with prizes for the 3 runners up as well as the queen.

Lina brought up that the youth group was going to design and have t-shirts for sale and wondered if the rest of the parish would like to be included in this. It was mentioned that we have had them in the past and it would be a good time to do this again.

Tom McNew, on behalf of the Walk for Life from the Texas Alliance For Life, awarded Father with plaques for the top church and top team for 2023 and we won this also in 2022. We have won in the past, but the plaques that were awarded seem to be missing. Tom would like permission to mount these in the FFC so they do not go missing.

The Knights of Columbus recently gave backpacks filled with school supplies to the local stuff the bus event. Two of the local essay winners went to the district level.

The youth group will conduct a praise and worship night once a quarter. The first one will be Oct. 21. The youth group still needs keys to the inside rooms of the A building and the building needs a smoke detector installed.

The double doors have been installed in B building.

Fall fest plans are coming along nicely. Next meeting is August 28 in the Social Hall. It needs to start being announced at 5:30 mass that they will need to park across the street unless it is absolutely necessary for them to park closer.

Ladies Society recently hosted the Ladies of the all the parishes in the deanery. It was well attended and a success for all.

The next meeting will be held on September 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted on August 20, 2023 by Robin Spencer, Secretary

