

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting

February 8, 2023

Present were:

Fr. Brian Eilers (Pastor)	Matt Rice	Christina Robertson
Lis Soto (Secretary)	Michael Alexander	Kevin Kapchinski
Leanne Southerland	Donna Hanus	Carlos Sanchez
Taylor Schroll	Lorian Dusek	Rick Erisman
	Anna Damian	Ritt Erisman

Absent:

Al Flores

Introductions

Carlos Sanchez is our new Youth Minister with Ablaze. He was present to meet the Pastoral Council. Everyone introduced themselves and told about their involvement in our parish. Carlos comes with some experience from St. Williams Church in Round Rock, Tx. Carlos looks forward to meeting all the families.

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Hours / Vespers - Evening Prayer was led by Father Brian Eilers 6:00 p.m.

Pastoral update by Father Brian and Kevin

A parish wide Pre-Lenten Mission is planned for Wednesday & Thursday evenings, Feb 15th & 16th. Wednesday is a family potluck and talk on proclaiming the gospel- the gift of Jesus. Knights of Columbus will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish to share. Thursday is a talk about how Jesus invites us into the Eucharist, Eucharistic Adoration and Confession. Votive candles will be gifted to participants. Chris Bartlett and Kevin Kapchinski will be featured speakers. Come and meet Jesus.

The 150th Anniversary Celebration will be a big event at the PAC. Bishop Joe Vasquez will offer mass at 11am on Sunday Mar 19, 2023, the feast day of St. Joseph. Activities will be free. There will be a tent, fun booths, food, and entertainment. There will be an interactive history wall display that allows families to add their name onto the timeline, showing where they joined the church's history.

Church collections are holding steady at \$30,000-35,000 per week. Last weekend attendance was over 1600 people at mass, the largest since before covid.

Kevin reported that St. Joseph is moving away from classroom catechesis so it will not be offered after this spring 2023. Religious Education in the fall of 2023 will be offered only through Family Faith Formation which is the best format for strengthening faith in families.

Our Discipleship Pathway

Discussion focused on developing options for the next step on the discipleship pathway, after Alpha and Foundations. Rick and Britt Erisman were present to share their knowledge from 25 years of experience with church groups and family life. They focused on the idea of St Joseph creating and sustaining "Life Groups". They suggested some "scaffolding" for post-Foundations programs, like offering regular leader training and support, without controlling the groups. The two simultaneous missions are: The Mission Inside - to care for those who want to walk with God, and The Mission Outside - reaching outside of church to invite others in to meet God. The Church should help groups to live life on a deeper level (to know and to be known). The church should encourage groups to always be sharing outside of their group and inviting new people in. They shared that the 3 principles for domestic church renewal are: personal prayer, family prayer and family meals.

Taylor S. reported that an annual meeting for Life Groups to gather to share and worship together has been successful at St. Faustina Catholic Church in Fulshear, Tx. That church also offers themed resources to keep the Life Groups going.

Lis S. suggested a "supper club" version of Life Groups for married couples that is limited to 4 couples and only meets 8 times, with each couple rotating to lead the supper twice. At each supper, all couples would share faith updates like: How is my prayer life? What am I studying in the faith right now? How did I put my faith into action? When was I closest to God? How can you pray for me?

It was determined that Kevin K. will coordinate the Life Groups that develop after the ALPHA/Foundations cycle and embrace any existing groups and Bible Studies at St. Joseph's to support them in whatever they need. As Life Groups register with Kevin, they get plugged into resources and better communication with our parish community. In exchange for support and resources, Life Groups affiliated with St. Joseph Church are expected to 1) live a life of prayer 2) develop rich relationships and 3) be on mission to bring more souls to Christ.

Matt R. shared an invitation to a spirit-filled event at St. Ann's Catholic Parish: Encounter Conference in Coppell, Tx on May 18-20, 2023. It was suggested that the prayer team and others who are interested in serving on the prayer team should be invited to attend this conference so that they can receive prayer ministry, instruction and experience in prayer ministry. Registration is at: encounterministries.regfox.com

Closing Prayer led by Fr. Brian.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Our next Pastoral Council meeting will be postponed to the week after spring break, March 22.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lis Soto, Secretary