

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting

June 21, 2023

Present were:

Fr. Brian Eilers (Pastor)

Al Flores (Chair)

Lis Soto (Secretary)

Leanne Southerland

Matt Rice

Anna Damian

Marcel LeJeune

Taylor Schroll

Donna Hanus

Michael Alexander

Lorian Dusek

Absent:

Christina Robertson

Opening Prayer Liturgy of the Hours was led by Father Brian 6:03 p.m. All were invited to offer petitions.

Feedback

Fr. Brian invited all to share with gratitude how we have seen God working in our parish over the past year. Here are some things mentioned:

- increased sense of belonging to a community
- feeling of revival and enthusiasm
- increased quality and number of liturgical events
- improved quality of homilies and online access to homilies
- longer confession lines (a good measure of true spirituality in the parish)
- development of discipleship groups like Alpha, Foundations, Quads, and Life Groups
- sacraments more focused on individual readiness and involving parents
- pastoral posture of empowerment that strengthens our sustainability and personal awareness of being on mission to share our faith.

Strategic Thinking

As we each grow in our faith, we should mentor others to become missionary disciples and leaders in our parish. Fr. Brian tries to create opportunities for others to share in some liturgical duties, like increasing the number of adult acolytes to help at mass. Much more is expected of parishioners than to just "Pray, Pay and Obey".

Marcel L. suggested that we keep a close count of those participating in Reconciliation. He also suggested that we keep our eyes open for programs that help us fill the gaps in our discipleship pathway.

Pastoral update by Father Brian Eilers

Father Will completed one year with our parish and begins his new assignment at St. Mary's in Temple on July 3. Our new associate pastor, Fr. Roopesh Mathew, will arrive on June 27th from India. Fr. Will leaves some big shoes to fill. Discussion focused on how to help Fr. Roopesh feel welcomed and integrated into our parish culture. Encouraging him to share his faith journey story and attend many events will help us to know, trust and embrace him.

Marcel L. offered a sample “orientation workbook” for new church employees. He also recommended that families be assigned to host and welcome Fr. Roopesh with “radical hospitality”. Fr. Brian asked each Pastoral Council member to write an email to Fr. Roopesh to welcome him here to our parish and maybe invite him to our homes.

Other Business

There is an open seat on the Pastoral Council. Areas underrepresented on the council are young, non-white, single parent and parent of child attending St. Joseph School. PC can recommend candidates to Fr. Brian.

Closing Prayer led by Marcel L.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wed. July 19th, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lis Soto, Secretary