

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting January 17, 2024

Present were:

Fr. Brian Eilers (Pastor)
Fr. Roopesh (Assoc. Pastor)
Lis Soto (Secretary)
Michael Alexander

Christina Robertson
Matt Rice
Anna Damian
Marcel LeJeune

Donna Hanus
Samantha Shepard
Lorian Dusek
Taylor Schroll

Absent:

Al Flores and Leanne Southerland

Opening Prayer Liturgy of the Hours was led by Father Brian Eilers 6:03 p.m.
Fr. Brian invited each person to share how God has been active in their life this Christmas.

Pastoral update by Father Brian Eilers

Father Brian shared updates about the state of the parish. Finances are healthy and mass attendance ranges between 1300-1500. This is down from 1500-1600 a year ago; we know some of our parishioners moved to the new St. Mary's church or to St. Anthony's for Faith Formation preference. RCIA continues on Tuesday nights with 40-60 attending weekly. Alpha and Foundations will be starting new sessions this spring, both on Monday nights. Fall "couple's date night" had 45 couples in attendance. St. Joseph School track and football achieved awards this year. Our schools are undergoing an accreditation renewal process. The Early Learning Center (ELC) is not yet financially viable. Completed Rising Star accreditation should be complete by this spring 2024 to help with ELC enrollment.

Upcoming plans include Quad reunions, couple's date nights, Holy Week Mission, high school Confirmation and our Annual Parish Festival (May 12th). This spring, Regnum Christi will invite other local parishes to join in our Holy Week Mission, March 30th.

Fr. Brian confirmed that a Christian community is alive when we are sharing. Fr Brian gives a personal welcome message before mass now, he invites everyone to greet their neighbor before mass and he has also extended confession hours.

Our free 5 year contract with Dynamic Parish was extended for one more year and will end in December 2024. To continue receiving holiday books and support for Welcome Retreats and Baptism classes, we will have to pay in 2025.

Our Discipleship Pathway

A new Coordinator of Adult Discipleship and Evangelization (CADE) has been hired. Karina Garcia goes by "Kari". She will assist with RCIA and the programs on the Discipleship Pathway (Alpha, Foundations, Quads, Welcome retreats and Bible Studies). All of this is

oriented to strategizing and tracking our BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal) of 5,000 missionary disciples in 10 years (by 2031).

A Missionary Disciple is defined as “someone who knows their faith well enough to invite others to church events” and help them onto the Discipleship Pathway. Success of our BHAG will be measured by **attendance** to events on the Discipleship Pathway and beyond. An initial survey of self-assessment will need to be planned as well as a “commissioning” event for those who are ready to be sent out as Missionary Disciples. A commissioning event will bring awareness and interest in the pathway process. Mike A. felt it was time to make the Discipleship Pathway map more known to the parish.

Fr Brian posed the question: **Are we on track to reach our BHAG?**

Marcel L. thanked Fr. Brian for his initiative and vision to bring such great change in the spiritual growth of our parish. Sam S. commented on Fr. Brian’s strong pastoral charism of “restoring the flock” and “bringing people back into the fold” by building a sense of belonging and community togetherness. Lorian D. commented on growth in activity with the young married group. Christina R. has seen an improvement in communication through flocknotes, more emails and now added Instagram. (Fr. Brian responded by commending Sonia, the office secretary, for her helpful skills and experience in communication.) Lis S. commented that Alpha has brought our parish community closer together.

One suggestion offered by 2 PC members was to add 3 x 1 day Kerygmatic retreats (spring, summer and fall) that explicitly proclaim the story of Jesus and invite you to accept Jesus into your heart and take the next step to change your life.

Marcel L. also suggested having 4 short lenten missions that present the 4 topics of our mission: to meet, know, live and share Jesus. Marcel L. also mentioned “Eucharistic Missionaries” who meet lifestyle requirements and want to share about Jesus in the Eucharist.

Taylor S. suggested printing invitations onto the discipleship pathway map and a self assessment. This could help parishioners find where they are on the map and determine their next step. Marcel L. suggested having a “hospitality booth” after masses to answer questions and explain the discipleship process.

Other Business

Fr. Brian announced that part of the parish's physical master plan is to look into obtaining the land north of our church that is held by a Family Trust. He asked for prayers so that an agreement can be negotiated. One idea is to build a new parish activity center there and consolidate offices into the old PAC.

Closing Prayer led by Father Brian

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wed. Feb 21, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lis Soto, Secretary