

# St Joseph Catholic Church

## Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting February 21, 2024

### **Present were:**

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

Christina Robertson  
Matt Rice  
Leanne Southerland  
Marcel LeJeune

Donna Hanus  
Samantha Shepard  
Al Flores  
Taylor Schroll

### **Absent:**

Lorian Dusek and Anna Damian

**Opening Prayer** was led by Father Brian Eilers 6:00 p.m.  
Fr. Brian invited each person to share prayer intentions.

### **Pastoral update by Father Brian Eilers**

Father Brian shared updates about the state of the parish. Finances are healthy and mass attendance increased to 1750 on the Sunday after Ash Wednesday. Alpha spring session has begun with 50 guests plus team members. Foundations has 30 attending. St. Joseph school will be looking for a new Elementary principal this fall 2024. Leadership of the entire school will be restructured to have 2 principals and one Head of School. School annual fundraiser, The Spirit of St. Joseph, will be on April 6, 2024. The Early Learning Center (ELC) is adding a new baby room this April with the hope of moving enrollment from 37 to 75; Texas Rising Star accreditation should be complete by this spring 2024 to help with ELC enrollment.

Next couple's date night is set for March 24th. Our Holy Week Mission has been expanded to two days: Good Friday and Holy Saturday, March 29th and 30th. Confirmation for high schoolers and adults will be on April 20th. Parish Festival will be on Mother's Day, May 12th; the festival is a fundraiser but also helps us to accomplish our mission by building trust between faithful and new volunteers and those who are attending the event for the first time. Missionary Disciple training will begin Wednesday Feb 28th for 4 weekly sessions.

Father Brian asked for feedback about Ash Wednesday and Lenten activities and how to engage new visitors.

Our diocese suggested that Fr. Brian start a committee to make a facilities master plan that will guide development on our existing land and help purchase more land nearby if needed. The north lot next door is not for sale as the owners plan to develop it.

### **Our Discipleship Pathway**

Marcel L. recommended that our parish focus on just a few evangelical activities and eliminate or pause all ministries that keep people busy without transforming them spiritually. Mike A. suggested that this process be deliberate and systematic. The goal is to move people from passive participation to active participation in their faith, to help them find the path out of comfort and mediocrity into dynamic discipleship growth.

Father Brian asked for prayers to help him to be pastoral and loving in his message to ministries that don't evangelize. These ministries will lose access to parish facilities eventually. They can become home based Life Groups if they choose to continue meeting. Life groups are groups of people that share a common interest and are growing in faith together. They must be open to the Holy Spirit (include prayer), evangelize as a primary goal, grow in relationship/ leadership, and have charity.

Activities like lenten talks or a mission, retreats, RCIA and Bible studies are ongoing perfective catechesis opportunities for all Disciples. They are not on the Discipleship Pathway because they are not oriented to facilitating a particular step of growth. The Christian Growth Cycle starts with trust, invites a person to believe through the presentation of the kerygma, helps them grow as a disciple and commissions them as missionary disciple. The processes we use to facilitate this growth are Alpha (belief) to Foundations (growing disciple) and quads (growing disciple to missionary disciple). Life Groups are a stability group for Missionary Disciples; they share life together, grow in our Catholic faith through study, prayer and worship and are supported as they go on mission together.

### **Other Business**

Fr. Brian announced that Ablaze Youth Ministry will be focusing more on evangelizing the unchurched, especially the students at SFA, which is next door to their office. St. Joseph is looking to hire a Coordinator of Youth Ministry for next fall 2024.

### **Closing Prayer led by Father Brian**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wed. March 20, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Lis Soto, Secretary