



**ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

Members Present:

Rev. Gabriel Baltés, OSB
Mike Budd
Maureen Cunningham
Andrew Hackley
Mary Beth Kerner
Mathew Klody
Tom Kmiecziak

Bob Miller
Rev. James Radek
Jaqueline Skelly
Tracy Szalek
Andrea Uribe
Leanne Van Gronigen
Matt Zurek

Absent:

Mary Agnes Laguatan
Dave Mankowski
Dan O'Connor
Bradley Vaupel
Dick Webb

Guests:

Michelle Picchione

I. OPENING

Evening Prayer was held in Room 22 of the Parish Center at 7:00 p.m.

The Meeting began at 7:18 p.m.

II. PASTOR'S ADDRESS

Synod on Synodality

Fr. Gabriel outlined the Synod on Synodality that Pope Francis convoked in October 2021. A “synod” is a council or an assembly, and the word literally means “walking together”. The Pope sees “synodality” as a way of life in the Church, where everyone would attentively listen in communion with each other and be in constant dialogue to be faithful to the mission of Christ. Synods have historically been convened to address problems and/or clarify doctrine. This synod is being called to address, through open and ongoing dialogue, a number of problems including lack of faith, corruption, sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable people, clericalism, secularized mentality, and religious fundamentalism.

The purpose of this Synod is to invite the world, both believers and non-believers, and including hierarchy and laity, to participate and discuss how the universal Church is living out communion,

participation, and mission in the life of the Church. The objective is to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church at this time in history.

In terms of the synod timeline, we are currently in the Diocesan Phase/Listening Phase, which will last through September, followed by the Continental and Regional Assembly Phase, which will take place until October 2023, and will conclude with the Synod of Bishops in Rome.

Each parish in the Diocese is being asked, between now and May 2nd, to organize listening sessions on the following various themes and topics:

- Companions on the journey
- Listening
- Speaking out
- Celebration
- Sharing responsibility for our common mission
- Dialogue in church and society
- Ecumenism
- Authority and participation
- Discerning and deciding
- Forming ourselves in synodality

Each of these broad topics has been given a set of sub-questions to help guide and focus discussion. Fr. Gabriel has organized a “Synodality Committee” to address these sub-questions through listening sessions, which may assume a variety of forms such as surveys, large group gatherings, phone conversations and the use of social media. The first step we plan to take is to send out a survey.

As non-believers, non-Catholics, and fallen-away Catholics are to be invited to participate in these discussions, we will likely need guidance from the Diocese on how to accomplish that. The guiding principles for all of our dialogue are to speak boldly (even in our differences), listen in dialogue and discern the truth.

Church Maintenance

Although the Capital Campaign was put on hold, the sound system and lighting in the church will still need to be addressed in the near future. The poor condition of the flooring and pews also remains a concern. We may need to encourage parishioners to increase their contributions in order to address these areas.

III. NEW BUSINESS

School Family Contributions and Volunteering

Data was provided regarding the donation analytics from 7/1/2021 through 1/31/2022 for registered school families receiving Parish tuition rates for Sunday offering and the Annual School Appeal. 100 registered Parishioner families out of a total of 157 actually donate less than 10% to the total Sunday collections. Out of a total of 204 school families, only 19 families contributed to the Annual School

Appeal. This further illustrates the need to define an active parishioner when enrolling in the School. Discussion to be continued in upcoming meetings.

The council members agreed that school families that are registered with the parish should be made aware that they are expected to contribute to the Sunday offertory, so that the rest of the parish is not left to cover the tuition subsidy from the parish. Also, Principal Michelle Picchione explained that going forward, school registration will include indicating whether the given family is registered with the parish, and if so, they will be asked to indicate the parish ministries in which they intend to serve. It is important that they are involved in the life of the parish, in addition to participating in school activities. Being an active parishioner involves the giving of time, talent, and treasure.

Matt Zurek provided a draft listing of outreach, pastoral, and liturgical ministries, advisory boards, and faith formation opportunities and events. The Council members then discussed which of these ministries and events would meet the criteria for a school family to be considered an active parishioner. It may be necessary to clarify how much of a time commitment to a given ministry is expected of a parishioner school family. Some ministries are ongoing, others involve an annual or periodic activity.

Fr. Gabriel thanked the Council members for their input, and intends to meet with Michelle Picchione and Matt Zurek to work on the specific requirements that will be instituted.

Hour of Eucharistic Adoration

Matt Zurek suggested that the Council Members resume committing to a weekly hour of Adoration on a rotating schedule. He will speak with Chapel Coordinator Lynne Passarella about this matter.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00pm in Parish Center Room 22.

V. CLOSING

The meeting ended at 8:42 p.m. Closing prayer was the Salve Regina.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Kerner
Recording Secretary