



**ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Oct. 3, 2023

Members Present:

Rev. Gabriel Baltus, OSB
Doug Becker
Mike Budd
Maureen Cunningham
Konnor Damery
Jeremy Jackson

Tom Kmiecik
Jacqueline Skelly
Andrea Uribe
Leanne Van Gronigen
Mitch Whorlow

Absent:

Gary Emore
Mat Klody

Brad Vaupel
Dick Webb

I. OPENING

Evening Prayer was held in Room 24 of the Parish Center at 7:03PM, and was led by Leanne and Karen.

The Meeting began at 7:14PM.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

September minutes were approved by Andrea, and seconded by Doug.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2023-2024 Contact List

The current roster of PPC members was distributed. It was noted that the terms for Andrea and Tom should be changed to 2018-2024. Gary Emore has resigned his position on the PPC. Any other roster changes can be sent to Karen.

IV. PASTOR'S UPDATE

a. Glass panels of Saints

Father Gabriel and Alex Gervacio will travel to St. Louis on Oct. 5th and 6th. They hope to bring back some of the glass panels of the saints that Wiktor Szostalo is working on for our sanctuary.

b. Eucharistic Encounter Evenings and Eucharistic Revival

Eucharistic Encounter Evenings begin Oct. 8, and are held monthly from 4PM to 5PM in the church. The Eucharistic Revival Committee will post a video each month on our SJA social media. The video will feature a committee member talking about the importance of the Eucharist. So far, Father Gabriel and Bill Munch have been highlighted as speakers.

c. Capital Campaign

Jack Hayes and Leanne will meet with the Diocesan Building and Property Committee next Wednesday for approval of our plans. An acoustical engineer was hired to review the plans and make recommendations as needed.

d. Upcoming October events

Father Gabriel will preach at all Masses during the weekend of Oct. 15th and 16th on reinstating Communion from the cup. On Oct. 22, a Liturgical Ministers workshop, led by Sister Sharon of the Diocese of Joliet, will be held in the church.

e. Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest was deemed a successful event by all who attended. There was discussion amongst council members of future events that could bring school and church together. Leanne brought up the idea of a picnic after the Corpus Christi procession in the spring. Father Gabriel broached the idea of joining Oktoberfest and the 8th grade Pizza Party into one large church event that benefitted both groups. Jeremy suggested having a joint fall carnival as part of the Centennial Celebration in 2024.

V. SCHOOL BOARD AND FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATES

Jeremy reported on the Blue Ribbon Award recently won by the school. He also noted that school enrollment was up 5%. The Golf Outing was a huge success, and the next big event for the school is the 8th grade Pizza Party and Carnival scheduled for Thurs., Oct. 5th.

Leanne reported that Finance Council will have their first meeting next week, Oct. 10th.

VI. DISCUSSION OF THE PARISH PILLARS

Jeremy provided a copy of the School Pillars with track changes highlighted in red. The work of the SJA School Board on their goals was reviewed to fit into the categories of the Parish Pillars. Amongst the issues discussed in the changes were:

- a. Catholic Identity:** Father Gabriel noted that the use of the sanctuary for school events is not always practical. Many times, the stage is a better venue for the school

programs. Also, the word “pastoral” should be changed to “pastor’s” to give the sentence correct meaning.

- b. Continue Focus on Academic Excellence:** In regards to support for school staff, Mitch suggested adding a goal of succession planning for teachers nearing retirement. He also noted that the goal of hiring a religion teacher/campus minister should be added.
- c. Marketing and Development:** The work of Denise Petty was praised for boosting the marketing of SJA to the community. Jeremy discussed the target of 400 students at SJA in 5 years as being a realistic goal that made good use of space at the school. Tom brought up questions regarding financial barriers to students and families in light of some new Illinois laws that may go into effect.
- d. Parish/School Relations:** Andrea stressed the need to bring school and RE families together. Konnor and Chase are working on this with RE parents. A monthly parent meeting for RE parents to get together for faith formation has been added to the calendar. It will meet the same time as RE classes.

Maureen asked PPC members to get their changes to the Parish Pillars to her in about one week. Maureen will work with Karen to type up changes. Council will review these again next month.

VII. BOOK DISCUSSION

Chapter 4 of *The Shattered Lantern* was reviewed. Mike Budd led the discussion.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023 at 7:00PM in Room 24.

VIII. CLOSING

The meeting ended at 8:50PM. The closing prayer for the Eucharistic Revival was provided by Father Gabriel.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Eldrenkamp

Recording Secretary