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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

April 2, 2024

Members Present:

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

Tom Kmiecik
Jacqueline Skelly
Brad Vaupel

Absent:

Mat Klody
Andrea Uribe

Dick Webb
Mitch Whorlow

I. OPENING

Evening Prayer began at 7:02PM, and was led by Doug and Tom.

The meeting began at 7:14PM.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

March minutes were approved by Doug, and seconded by Tom.

Adoration Chapel Reminders

Maureen reviewed the schedule for April through May with the Council members.

III. PASTOR'S UPDATE

Father Gabriel reported that there was very good attendance at all the Masses during the Easter Triduum. He also reported that a new business manager, Lori Trinche, has been

hired to fill the position vacated by Leanne Van Gronigen. Lori is very active in her church, and will fit in well here at St. Joan of Arc Parish. Leanne will be working with Lori over the next few weeks to get her trained and to work on the budget. Father also updated all on church renovations. They are on target for the timeline presented by Jack Hayes at the last PPC meeting.

IV. SCHOOL BOARD AND FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATES

Jeremy reported that the Andrew Marks is currently working on the school budget. The School Board is working with staff and administration on the finishing touches for the Strategic Plan. Projected enrollment for next year is 380 students. It is anticipated that an additional first grade teacher will be hired for next year.

Finance Council will be meeting in May.

V. NEW BUSINESS---ONGOING DISCUSSIONS

a. Chris White

Chris continued his discussion from the previous meeting on *Laudate Deum*. Emphasis for this meeting was on current environmental concerns, and how to educate the St. Joan of Arc parish community on ways to take action. Chris shared handouts with the PPC that highlighted a variety of environmental issues. After much discussion on these issues, the topic of increasing awareness and instituting change was broached. Chris summarized by saying he is looking for opportunities to engage with parishioners about their options—what can be done differently to protect the environment. The Diocese of Joliet stresses education on this topic should be carried out by all parishes in the Diocese. The PPC members discussed various ways to educate the parishioners—partnering with Earthmatters, messages in the bulletin, and a series of talks given by Chris. Father Gabriel suggested the renovated Church could be used for talks by Chris, and they could be part of a Centennial Series on *Laudate Deum*. Jeremy mentioned partnering with the school science teachers to leverage participation of school families. Maureen recommended targeting fall start, and asked all PPC members to share their ideas with her for further meeting discussion.

b. Matt Klody

TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING: Discussion regarding energizing school parents involvement in the parish.

c. Tom Kmiecik

TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING: Update on Parish membership, mass attendance, school family participation, and number of new members, marriages, baptisms and deaths during the last year.

VI. PARISH PILLARS

a. Social and Service Pillar---Matt Zurek

Under the section naming Inspiration Catholics in this pillar, Tom recommended adding Blessed Michael McGiveny, founder of the Knights of Columbus. Matt gave an overview of current service ministries he oversees at SJA. All of these ministries need more volunteers. Matt would like to expand services to a prison ministry run through St. Leonard's in Chicago. He would also like to start a Dorothy Day Guild to promote her cause for sainthood. Fr. Gabriel brought up the fact that parishioners need to be educated on Dorothy Day's life, and some of her relics at St. Procopius Abbey could be brought here to be displayed. Matt brought up the need get more young people and school families involved the social and service committees here at SJA. He mentioned the work of the F3 group in helping with physical tasks for the needy like moving furniture, boxes, etc., and would like more help from groups like this one. Father Gabriel shared the work of parishioner, Leanne McGrath, and how she started Sharing Connections to provide furnishings for people in need throughout DuPage County. Maureen asked if a relationship with a sister parish, like Upendo Village, would like to be re-started. It was agreed that more discussion was needed on this topic, and Fr. Gabriel suggested getting in touch with St. Thomas Parish in Naperville as a resource.

b. Status of Pillars

Maureen gave a deadline of the May 7th PPC Meeting to have a final version of the Parish Pillars available for presentation. Jacqueline brought up questions about wording of the tag line and parish key message. Fr. Gabriel explained the meaning behind the wording. Jacqueline also suggested wording changes that used the name of Jesus in the pillars, as well as a focus on evangelization. Maureen suggested all PPC members send her any more thoughts on changes via email, and they will be discussed at the next meeting. Konnor brought up that the pillar on Catechesis still needed to be discussed. Maureen will schedule Konnor for the May 7 meeting. In summary, Fr. Gabriel stated that the next PPC meeting agenda should include Konnor, changes to the Parish Pillars, and topics that were tabled at this meeting.

Next Meeting

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

VII. CLOSING

The meeting ended at 9:04PM. The closing prayer for the Eucharistic Revival was provided by Father Gabriel.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Eldrenkamp

Recording Secretary