

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2024

Attendees: Fr. Mike Jendrek, Elizabeth Brownlee, Kevin Burgess, Paul Dallavalle, Steve Harmel, Rick Keegan, Jenny Lagana.

Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike Jendrek

Fr. Mike opened the meeting by praying that the council members be faithful disciples and that the Holy Spirit guide our discussions.

Discussion Agenda Items:

- a. Pastoral Council responsibility for April 7 Donut Sunday and dedication of Ryan Hall – leadership, duties, volunteers
 - The council is responsible for preparing and serving the drinks and donuts for the April Donut Sunday. Kevin Burgess volunteered to be the captain. Elizabeth, Rick, and Jenny have volunteered to prepare for the gathering after the 10:30am Mass. Paul volunteered to be Kevin's back-up and to prepare for the gathering after the 8:30am Mass. More volunteers will be needed. This event is a good opportunity for parishioners to meet some of the council members.
- b. Security system – church, chapel, HFCC rectory
 - The new security system in the church building and the hall is now operational. The system is fob-based (instead of keys) with security zones in the building and with timed entrances for all ministries conducting programs. For instance, the door on the left (facing the altar) of the front of the church opens 30 minutes prior to the time of Mass. The system will be activated for all parish activities. The chapel facing Central Avenue is not affected. Fr. Mike has requested that all keys for entry doors at HFCC be returned to the parish office. We will continue to have police officers outside Mass on Sunday to direct traffic and to provide visible security.
 - Some parishioners, feeling that the security system is intrusive and not a welcoming environment, have questioned the need for the system. Others are comfortable with the system and believe that the system is necessary.
 - Future adjustments and fine-tuning will be made, especially when Daylight Savings Time starts in March.
 - The HFCC rectory is the home owned by the parish in Hardesty Estates and occupied by our pastor. Maintenance of the house is funded by the parish, though over the years parishioners have taken care of certain repairs or remodeling. Maintenance of the rectory grounds is done, when feasible, by the Holy Mowers, a group of parishioner volunteers. Not all repairs are simple or inexpensive. For instance, the septic system was replaced several years ago, and the well pump recently needed replacement.
 - A new security system was installed at the rectory, and the council asked that Fr. Mike check with Louisa about replacing the basement door with a more secure door.
- c. Status of HVAC system – installation, payment, fund-raising ideas
 - The parish still owes a small payment for the HVAC installation. That payment will not be made until the AC is checked out. As of February, we had met 75% of the goal for the HVAC installation fund drive. Unfortunately, collections have not been large enough to restore the \$50,000 taken from the maintenance budget to begin the fund drive.
 - Our HVAC campaign is not taxed by the normal AOB cathedraticum assessment. This cathedraticum-free period began on May 1, 2023, and lasts until April 30, 2025.

02/28/2024

However, once the HVAC installation bill is paid, the cathedra tax is reinstated. We also owe \$2,300 every month on our loan from the archdiocese.

- d. Chapter 11 bankruptcy for AOB – impact on Holy Family parish and on 2024 Annual Appeal for archdiocesan programs
 - As of late February, the parish had contributed over \$52,000 via the “in-pew” campaign. The AOB had already collected over \$3,000,000 in pledges, an amount exceeding expectations. Our parish goal is \$119,000.
- e. Financial status of 2023-2024 budget – effectiveness of collections, need for increased funds
 - The parish needs to balance the 2023-2024 budget, i.e., the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.
 - The subsequent discussion centered on making two collections during Mass more effective. Should hand-held baskets continue to be passed? Should the ushers utilize baskets attached to a pole? Should baskets be placed on a table in the narthex for parishioners to use before or after Mass?
 - A suggestion was made to have a sign-up drive for Faith Direct. Fr. Mike said that during the 2024 fall, he intends to ask parishioners to use Faith Direct for their parish contributions. Another suggestion was to ask Faith Direct for tips on encouraging parishioners to use the on-line tool.
- f. Communication with parishioners – Facebook (volunteer), survey tool, survey of middle-school religious ed. students; volunteers needed for OLPH food delivery, rectory maintenance, funeral servers
 - The parish is currently looking for a new youth ministry leader, and the survey of middle school religious ed. students might help in that selection.
 - We need more volunteers to take food from the narthex to the food pantry at OLPH.
 - Some parishioners do not like the location of the food in the narthex, saying that the narthex looks messy.
 - Fr. Mike responded that he thought the presence of the food indicates to visitors that Holy Family parishioners are attempting to live their faith by helping those in need.
 - Fr. Mike asked if we could take food to the food pantry more frequently and suggested that a member of the pastoral council make a proposal about a new volunteer group to take food to OLPH. (Note: a proposal was made, but the St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteered to take the food whenever necessary, and the new group was no longer needed.)
 - The need for more volunteers to help Fr. Mike at funeral Masses was briefly discussed. No further action was taken.
 - We need different approaches to increase our number of volunteers.
- g. Parish Strategic Plan – update on progress
 - The core team hopes to get general AOB approval for the parish plan after the April meeting. The parish will then be briefed on the plan in April or early May.
 - One of the key components of the plan is that our parishioners “talk” to people, be “disciples” to the greater community, evangelize lapsed Catholics to return to the parish, accompany new people who are searching for “something” significant in their life.
 - Fr. Mike wants a plan with three tangible goals that can be attained in a positive and realistic way.

02/28/2024

- One of the council members hoped that the strategic plan could be comprehensive enough to be integrated into all of our parish ministries.
- h. Outreach to parishioners for Lent/Easter
- A post card was mailed to parishioners at the beginning of Lent to indicate Mass times during Lent as well as the time of services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Last year, only 1800 people came to Mass on Easter, so there appears to be no need for two 8:30 Masses Sunday morning. There will be two 10:30 am Masses: one in the church and one in Unity Hall.
 - A council member suggested that a mailing should be sent to all parishioners before Lent/Easter indicating the various activities (classes, services, parish mission, etc.) to be held during Lent. The intent is to have parish members become more invested in these group activities. The suggestion was expanded to make a general mailing on a quarterly basis.
- i. Impact of redesigned HFCC bulletin/blast – add commentary on Sunday’s scripture passages (could be Fr. Mike or other Catholic author)
- The request was for a spiritual reflection to be included in the bulletin and in the blast. The idea was not to ask Fr. Mike to prepare his sermons weeks in advance. A column taken from a Catholic newspaper or magazine would be ideal.
- j. National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024 – parish/youth participation (**not discussed**)
- k. Visibility of pastoral council members – greeters, name tags, pictures (**not discussed**)
- l. Status of parish census/directory update (**not discussed**)
- m. Parishioner suggestions for use of facilities or liturgical modifications
- A wine and cheese party was scheduled for the 3rd Sunday of Lent, but was cancelled due to a conflict with a funeral luncheon. Fr. Mike is open to suggestions about better use of our facilities.

Pastor’s Remarks – Fr. Mike Jendrek

- a. Cyndi Zajic has returned to work. Margaret Wood has been helping Cyndi by supporting some of Cyndi’s pastoral programs.
- b. The old church hall is to be named Ryan Hall in honor of Fr. Ryan who was a long-time pastor at Holy Family. A council member asked that a “serenity” room be set aside in the old hall. Fr. Mike is hoping that the pastoral council could sponsor a gathering to dedicate Ryan Hall sometime in May or June.
- c. Addition of Blessed Mother statue in Unity Hall has not yet been addressed.
- d. Status of youth minister – discussed in item f. above.
- e. Progress on Rt. 424/214 corner and rental of P.O. building – No change with regard to the corner. Rental of the building is not feasible until repairs are made.
- f. Former pastor Joe Barr has been ill and will be moved to the Stella Maris home.
- g. Fr. Mike is forming a committee to check the HFCC physical facility and estimate needed repairs and associated costs.

The next meeting dates (7:00pm, in Classrooms 10 and 11):

- February 28, 2024
- April 24, 2024
- June 26, 2024

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02/28/2024