

## Saint Jude Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2025

### Approved Minutes

Attendees: Fr. Weber, Peter Benz, Greg Branson, Susie Cabrera, Alvaro Garcia-Velez, Steven Gorzek, Andrew Meindl, Tom Mullooly, Susan Ray, Andy Schmitt, Mickie, Steldt, Annie Tower, Tim Weiss

### Meeting Notes

#### Opening and Minutes Approval

- Motion was made by Susan R. and Seconded by Tim W. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted without correction.

#### Pastoral Remarks and Parish Updates

- Congratulations were extended to the basketball teams for their performance in five games.
- The family Stations of the Cross event was successful and is planned to be continued in the future.
- St. Jude parish was well-represented at the MacCanon Brown Gala, which had a larger crowd than the previous year.
- Father Emmanuel is returning on March 26<sup>th</sup> and will stay until mid-August. His suite has been freshly painted.
- The parish is still searching for a Maintenance Manager. In the interim, Celeste and a cleaning company are handling maintenance tasks.
- A meeting was held with Inspired Artisans regarding the baptismal font project, but updated budgetary numbers are not yet available.

#### Upcoming Events and Activities

- Volunteers are needed for foot washing on Holy Thursday. Interested individuals can sign up in the usher's room or email Bill Flood.
- A Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour will be held from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM on the second Sunday of Easter, in collaboration with several other parishes.
- The next Jude20 Talk Series event is scheduled for April 19th. A Capuchin friar will speak on St. Francis of Assisi's Canticle of Creation.
- The Kearns family and the Zunac family will chair the upcoming Jude Fest in June.
- On September 24th, Archbishop Fulton Sheen will be beatified in St. Louis.

#### School Accreditation, Finance, and Enrollment

- The school is undergoing a two-day accreditation visit. A team is observing teachers and interviewing parents and staff.

- Catherine led the extensive preparation, compiling hundreds of data points and documents. Interviewers were highly complimentary of the St. Jude community and leadership.
- A preliminary report is expected at the conclusion of the visit, but the timeline for the official result is unknown. The materials gathered will be beneficial for future marketing.
- The parish is on track to finish the fiscal year with a surplus. The finance committee praised Celeste and Catherine for their thorough preparation.
- The upcoming budget is based on the enrollment of 400 students. The school projects ten fewer students for next year due to a smaller middle school group, though the long-term outlook is positive with full 3K/4K programs.
- The school has room to grow in elementary and middle school, with class sizes of 18-22 students below the capacity of nearly 30.

### **School Play**

- The school play is generating net positive revenue for the first time in a while.
- To manage crowding and improve accessibility for the Saturday matinee, suggestions included removing the “kid corral,” creating space for wheelchairs/walkers by removing front-row seats, or removing seats in the middle of aisles. A concern was raised about elevator capacity post-play.
- A blessing of the sick was requested for the Mass between Saturday performances.
- There is concern about long-term leadership for the play, as current parent volunteers have older children, and a future discussion may be needed about paid directors.

### **St. Jude Centennial Celebration Planning**

- A leadership team of five volunteers has been formed. A leadership meeting is scheduled for the evening of April 14th to align volunteers with subcommittees.
- The 100th anniversary is in late March of 2028. The group is deciding on a celebration period: leading up to March 2028, the full 2028 calendar year, or the 2027-2028 school year. The group leaned towards a school-year timeline, starting in fall 2027.
- March 24, 2028, falls on a Friday during Lent, which will need consideration. The group agreed to be mindful of religious observances.
- A 100-day countdown to the centennial (starting December 14th) was mentioned as a possible idea.
- The May “Donut Sunday” will be a public kickoff to raise awareness. A grassroots email list has grown from 24 to about 70 people.
- The committee includes members without children in the school to avoid a “school-centric” celebration that might alienate other parishioners.

## Community, Ministry, and Committee Updates

- **Human Concerns Committee:** Wisconsin Right to Life donates roses for the Mother's Day sale, with proceeds going to Wisconsin Right to Life. Men from the parish are needed to help sell roses on May 9th and 10th. An ongoing hygiene product drive for the House of Peace was approved and will kick off on April 19th. The committee is also seeking more youth volunteer opportunities.
- **Men of St. Jude:** The group is in a quiet period after the Father-Daughter Dance. A membership event is scheduled for April 15th. They recently helped with minor repairs and painting.
- **Youth Ministry & Faith Formation:** The "Butter Braids" fundraiser for the mission trip was held; final numbers are pending. Father Joshua Miller was installed as a lector and will be in the Dominican Republic for Spanish immersion. The Youth Council is planning summer activities.
- **Donut Sunday:** The Girl Scouts' event was successful. The next one in April will be hosted by women basketball players to recruit for their league.

## Holy Week and Easter Preparations

- Volunteers are needed to decorate the church on Thursday from 8 AM to 12 PM and Saturday from 12 PM.
- More ministers are needed for the 11 AM Easter Sunday Mass.
- Participants were invited to the foot washing ceremony on Holy Thursday.
- A volunteer is needed to assist with the chalice at the 9 o'clock Mass.

## Church Building Projects

- **Tester Restoration:** The artistic design team felt restoring the tester (canopy over the altar) was too risky due to damage to the original plasterwork caused by old halogen lamps.
- **Lighting Project:** The conversation shifted to lighting options without restoration, such as replacing lights with cooler LEDs or uplighting the tester and the area behind the altar.
- **Budgeting:** Bids are needed for the LED change, moving the baptismal font, and the tester lighting to see if the projects fit within a potential \$100,000 budget.

## Strategic Plan and Communications

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI):** The group reviewed the 2021 strategic plan. It was noted that the parish has grown more diverse and the focus has been on "inclusion" to make everyone feel welcome. The item remains "red" as specific 2021 initiatives are not being pursued, though the overall goal of being a welcoming parish remains.
- **Parish Engagement:** Progress was noted on small groups and engagement. The goal of designing social opportunities was considered "green" due to the parish survey and new interest groups.

- **Parish Communication Audit:** Significant improvements have been made, with new staff, improved digital platforms, and fewer complaints about a lack of transparency.
- **Parish Picture Directory:** A directory was suggested as a long-term goal for the 100th anniversary to help parishioners identify each other.
- **Church Tours:** The idea of offering “open door” style church tours was discussed, with fall being a potential time to engage new families.
- **Planned Giving:** The group will revisit a planned giving event, possibly in November, to discuss pre-planning burial expenses and including the parish in estate plans.
- **Purple Envelope Donations:** There was interest but few new sign-ups for recurring donations during “Donuts Sunday.” A suggestion was made to check general online collections, and the presence of a QR code in the bulletin was noted.