

Saint Mark Catholic Church Pastoral Council

Minutes May 23, 2022

In Attendance: Father John Putnam, Christine Wladyka, Lisa Daily, Suzanne Broda, Myrna Crosby, David Balmaceda, Peter Miano, Kathleen Harrison, Paul Laskowski, Chad Wilson, Wojtek Lachowski, Tim O'Bryant, John Ferrannini, David Liberto, Scott Bruno

Absent: Christina Riley, Nathan Vari, Jean Carlo Carrillo, Jim Burger, Phillip Weaver, John Benson

Prayer -Intercession

Father John

Accept Minutes

Lisa

Guest Speaker- Synod Update

Paul Laskowski

Synod Update

- 305 responded to survey, 26 questions- 75% were 45 yr old+, 96% attend Mass weekly... Only 33% are comfortable openly talking about their faith with others. Many appreciate the Liturgy, Priests, Ministries. Small Groups came up over and over. Speakers, Parish Missions, Hispanic Ministry all had favorable responses. A few comments about the music. A lot of people feel lost since our Parish is so large.
- How can we address and better serve on a more intimate level? Alleviate the feeling of being lost?
- 61% of responders describe their relationship with St. Mark as steady, strong or good. 96% of responders describe their relationship with the Catholic Church as steady, strong or good.
- Living your strengths and other programs can help to identify what individual strengths are.
- Areas for improvement or growth- person and identity speaker- resource for parents and children on kids who have transgender thoughts. "Courage" is group for kids who have homosexual feelings." Encourage" is group for family members. Jason Everett is powerful speaker.
- St. Mark has an Ambassador Program which allows us to reach out to new parishioners.
- There will be Diocesan report that will demonstrate the overall results of the Synod Survey.
- Open discussion about all of the responses to questions...see full summary in link on Pastoral Council page.

Commission Updates

Wojtek

- **Liturgy & Worship-** Discussed Holy Week attendance- consider adding a Mass or shift the schedule next year. CTK and St. Mark Baccalaureate Mass, Corpus Christ Mass (moved to Sunday). Seminarians- looking at schedule when they come to assist. Altar server shortage expected this summer. Usher issues. Dinner coming up for Father John.
- **Buildings-** Ordination coming up. Stairwell was painted. Chair purchase will allow for more cosmetic changes, better storage.
- **Finances-** with inflation trends, people are being negatively impacted. Need to be mindful. We need to help our St. Mark employees. 6% across the board for Diocesan employees. Ok with the budget right now.
- **Communications-** 7,358 FB followers, 7,038 Instagram followers, livestreaming continues for Masses, Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms, Retreats, Faith Formation, Sacraments and Events.
- **Evangelization-** There is an action Bible in comic book format for kids which is terrific, we have an increased need for core team and catechists. Last week in July is movie night...Season 1 of The Chosen etc. Franciscan at Home to learn more theological approach to your faith.
- **Education-** nothing new.
- **Parish Life-** nothing new.
- **Community Life-** nothing new.

PC Members- New Year

Lisa

- Please let John B know if you are not intending to return next year

Security Update for Parish

John F

- We can schedule a presentation here at St. Mark. John F provided a summary of the discussion from his commission. Maybe consider a key pad for the Adoration Chapel. There is a panic button on the back wall in the Adoration Chapel.
- John F will speak with Scott to initiate a plan going forward for St. Mark security.

St Mark

Lisa

- **Fr John 30th Anniversary Dinner-** please RSVP
- **25th Parish Anniversary-** Ideas- September fest. Concerts on the Green, Jazz Band Wine and Cheese.

Comments

Father John

- Upcoming Ordinations.
- Difficulty getting parts for the doors. Work in progress.
- Deacon, as well as Christin Goduti, coming for a summer assignment.
- **Mike Fitzgerald- Respect Life Coordinator.** Town of Huntersville looking to adopt gender identity as ordinance. This would allow individuals to file discrimination charges against businesses if they feel they are being discriminated against based on gender identity. NDO non-discrimination organizations. Doesn't account for sincerely held religious beliefs. There was a hearing last Monday- Charlotte approved their NDO last august. Ordinance is redundant. It is boxing in religious belief inside the walls of the Church or individual's homes. Prevents us from expressing our beliefs. Religiously owned businesses could be targeted by the ordinance. Town would enshrine gender identity.
- To defeat- we need parish support. There are 57,000 people in Huntersville. About 6,000 people voted in last mayor election. We have several thousand St. Mark voters ...need them to contact the town board to express their opinions.
- Action item- email the main board. June 21st is unconfirmed meeting date. Publicity is needed
- We need attorneys. David Liberto has contact of 2 he will share. We need to reach out to Catholic Small Business Owners.

Closing Prayer

Father John