

## St. John's Pastoral Council

### Members 2023-24

Fr. Temo Ramírez, Pastor

Steve Duncan, 2024-2026

Laura Jackson, 2023-26

Cassandra Elizalde, 2023-26

Helen MacDonald, 2024-27

Jorge Flores, 2023-26

Tyler Saty, 2024-27

John Gent, 2024-27

Helen Sheerin, Chair, 2022-25

Jacqueline Hemmer, 2024-25

Colleen Torrens, 2023-2026

Ann Makar, Recording Secretary

### Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2024

All council members were present except for Jacqueline Hemmer, due to a family emergency. Also attending were Lori Jimerson and Lorena Heredia. Fr. Temo offered an opening prayer at 6:05. The minutes from the September 20 meeting were approved with the correction of a typographical error and an update on the timing for Simbang Gabi Mass, which will be celebrated at 5 PM December 21.

#### Pastoral Report (See Addendum)

A rosary novena will be held in the courtyard at 7 PM Oct. 25-30. Father Temo will hear confessions at that time. A triduum of masses will be celebrated at 7 PM Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

Steve McGillis agreed to be Master of Ceremonies at the mass of installation for Fr. Temo as pastor of parish family #44, but we are awaiting a decision on the time: at 6 PM Nov. 22 or 25 or [chosen] at 5 PM mass Nov. 16. The Second Sunday of Advent is Dec. 8, so the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated Dec. 9 and is a holy day of obligation.

A rosary novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe takes place Dec. 4-12 with mass to be celebrated Dec. 12 in Spanish at 5 AM, in English at 9 AM, and bilingually at 5 PM, preceded by a procession at 4:30. Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 7 PM Dec. 4-9 and Dec. 11.

*Posadas* will take place Dec. 15-23. Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at 7 PM Dec. 16, 20, 21, 23, and 24. A rosary will be recited Dec. 17 and 19.

St. Rose, Longview: Dec. 13

St. Joseph, Vancouver: Dec. 17

St. John the Evangelist: Dec. 18

Holy Redeemer, Vancouver: Dec. 19

The parish office will be closed Dec. 24-27 and January 1. Ash Wednesday falls on March 5. The Rite of Election during Lent for the southern deanery is set for 6 PM March 6 at Joseph.

The archdiocese is to inform us by the end of October of the date when the Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred at St. John's for parish family #44. It will be Feb. 20 or 27 or May 2. [The time is 6 PM Thursday, Feb. 20.]

The final roof inspection was performed in mid-October. It's hoped that the nave and narthex roofing projects may be finalized before the end of November

Lori handed out a spreadsheet listing each parish ministry, the contact person, and the council member who is liaison for that ministry. Council members requested phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

After attending a meeting lasting until 8 PM, a parishioner stumbled over rock parking abutments southwest of the fireside room. The large rocks have been painted reflective white, and a floodlight will be installed adjacent to the trail connecting the parking lot that faces 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the gravel parking lot to its south. Are more lights needed in the gravel lot and along the south side of the classrooms? It's suggested that people arrive early to get good parking spaces. Several ministry leads have reserved tables for the ministry fair. Helen S. and Tyler will staff a table to request members step up to form a safety & security committee, and Tyler will be its liaison and the liaison for altar servers and PREPARES.

Laura will be liaison for the pro-life group. Helen will be liaison for Bible study/faith sharing. Jorge and Cassandra will be liaisons for Spanish-language ministries of safety & security, baptism class, altar servers, nocturnal adoration,

lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Father Temo has requested Hispanic parishioners to join the safety & security committee and will ask them to consider joining the pastoral council. Ms. Chris Shea is a retired dispatcher for the county sheriff's office and wants to join the committee being formed. No concealed weapons are allowed in parish or archdiocesan facilities. More people must become familiar with our first-aid kits and be trained in first aid and in evacuation and other emergency procedures.

To install acoustic panels and a new speaker system in the nave will cost \$127,000. Steve requests that information on the hearing-assistance devices be publicized in the bulletin. Helen S. request that important items be included at least two weeks in the bulletin.

The parish annual report for fiscal year 2023-24 is ready for publication in the bulletin the end of October. A generous, capable volunteer has assisted with many hours of batch entry in ParishStaq and has used it in live mode. The staff is very grateful to Sue Gent for her work.

When a new master plan is developed, which will consider the best uses of the property, a perpetual chapel and school rooms will be included.

The next council meeting will be 6 PM in the Fireside Room Friday, Nov. 15, during which we will tie ribbons on candy canes. The wedding date for Jorge and Cassandra is June 25, 2025.

### *Liaison Reports*

Colleen reported on the cemetery ministry: The next clean-up date is 9 AM-12 noon Sat., Nov. 9. The committee thanked Steve Holcombe for his years of dedication to maintaining the cemetery and discussed pursuing the idea of a paid sexton to manage the grounds. The number of funerals has increased, and mistakes are happening in the placement of monuments. The group will see whether our family parishes are interested in this service, meet with a cemetery sexton to learn about what the job entails, and eventually contact the archdiocese for guidance.

Seton Catholic has been contacted to invite students to participate in the clean-up, and Colleen will also ask our Faith Formation leaders to invite students.

Members of the cemetery ministry discussed appropriate, respectful behavior at the cemetery. Marina and Yarely helped them understand the Hispanic perspective of the burial of loved ones. There are rules for keeping the cemetery safe for volunteers and visitors and rules for monuments and the approval of monuments. Yarely is going to make sure she covers these expectations with all families at the time they purchase a plot.

Colleen met with members of the grounds crew, who plan to continue serving as long as they're able. They now have to mow around small lights recently placed in the ground. These will be removed.

Uneven ground in the picnic area south of the playground poses a tripping hazard. To consider in the future: removing some dead pine trees and smoothing the area.

Laura reported on the Catholic Daughters of America: Their annual bazaar will be in Vogel Hall 9-3 Saturday, Nov. 9. There will be more than 40 vendors, a bake sale, and food from the kitchen. Tickets are on sale for the quilt and numerous other prizes. The drawing will occur at 2 PM at the bazaar.

Preparations are being made for St. John's court to host the Washington State CDA Convention in April.

Cassandra learned from the Spanish-language ushers and welcome committee that many people have been requesting water during liturgies and events. There has been a case of bottled water under the welcome desk in the narthex, but it's being depleted quickly. Father Temo wants to keep locked the doors to the office wing during liturgies and events. He decided to keep bottled water and small cups in the sacristy. Someone needing water can be accompanied there by an usher and given a drink. The usher will dispose of the cup.

Cassandra reported that the ministry of flower arrangements has requested a notice in the bulletin in response to people asking how to make a donation for the purchase of flowers. Parishioners who receive donation envelopes in the mail can use a yellow envelope for that purpose. Other envelopes may also be used. Father will mention this at the end of masses. Many Hispanic people do not take a bulletin and do not itemize tax deductions.

### Old Business

Regarding the tree lighting Nov. 30, per Colleen's request, Jorge will ask Alberto Gutiérrez to have his children's choir sing and Steve will arrange music that adult English speakers can sing. Colleen will talk with the Knights of Columbus about obtaining and setting up a tree. Father will ask parishioners to donate strings of lights.

### New Business

When an event such as a parish festival or kermés (kermesse) is scheduled, the council must be made aware. If its fundraising is publicized to be for a particular end, this should be honored; any change should be explained clearly.

Should a representative of the finance committee be present at every council meeting?

At 8:10, Fr. Temo thanked us all for our participation, and Helen M. agreed to read the Partners in the Gospel prayer.