

## **Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Wednesday June 5, 2024, at 4 PM. (Egg Harbor Office & Zoom)**

**Welcome and Check-In:** Tom Polacek opened the meeting at 4:04 pm.

**Present:** Tom Polacek, Heidi Keene, Deacon Tony Abts, Larry Leporte, Fr. Tom Farrell, Lori Carlson, Mike Trebotich, Jim Schorer, Deacon Kurt Grube, Chris Schmitz, Angela Packard, Kathy Wolff

**Opening Prayer:** Deacon Tony led us in prayer.

**Liaison Updates: (10 min)** This is an opportunity for the liaison to update the PC on any matters they feel the PC should know about.

- Worship-Kathy W.: Worship will discuss these topics at its June 7 meeting: collaborating with Faith Formation during the year of the Eucharist; FAMily; the challenge of recruiting servers and sacristans at EH; questions from parishioners about why we are not receiving under both species in our diocese. One committee member commented that as a result of the recent Leadership Planning Conference, she now realizes the committees' connections with and responsibility to Pastoral Council.
- Living Justice—no liaison/no report
- Faith Formation-Lori C. Entrust: 1<sup>st</sup> session of Beautiful Eucharist—in part b/c of opinion on zoom v in person and content v timing, an effort was made to see if they could do a boat rental, but there was not sufficient room on the boat for everyone. Book group had a very successful meeting with Shepherd of the Bay book group. There is discussion about whether two congregations would try getting together this year in the Year of the Eucharist.
- Parish Life—no liaison/no report
- Stewardship-Tom P: June 15-16 is the kickoff for the campaign that promotes sharing our time and using our talents within the parish. Last year there was a bump-up in volunteers; Jim Schorer has volunteered to be the parish's volunteer coordinator, and Jim's name and contact info will be in the bulletin. Tom said that "we'll arm Jim with the org chart," and we'll also figure out what kind of services we can provide.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Impressions: (Larry Leporte)**

Larry told us that he had seen "things of beauty": highly engaged membership, much greater than his previous parish; good energy and a very positive vibe; devotion in mass attendance as well as sense of reverence; the condition of the physical facilities is excellent, as is the financial situation.

He also noted areas in which we could improve. There is a lot of evidence of attachment to individual sites; this cuts both ways b/c of exclusivity--what "their church" got compared to "the other church;" evangelization could be expanded and there could be events that provide a

springboard; music at weekend masses is inconsistent and runs from outstanding or having pieces of music that do not fit together.

Larry reported that when he attended mass at different sites, he experienced mainly a welcoming and an inclusive atmosphere as well as a little sternness. One area in which we could improve is in that we welcome strangers with the same degree of enthusiasm with which we welcome our friends.

#### **Business matters: (Tom P-15 min)**

- Terry McArdle's term as Treasurer Trustee is ending. Fr. Tom can nominate 2 candidates for Treasurer Trustee. Two candidates have also come forward: Garey Bies and Darryl Draeger. Parishioners can also nominate candidates provided there are signatures from 10 other parishioners as well. This weekend there will be an announcement and details about the election. Ballots will be emailed to all parishioners and will also be available at the office. Parishioners will deposit ballots in boxes at church or turn them in at the office. **Discussion:** Will candidates provide a brief biography? Yes, one has already been provided. Will there be a thank you letter from Fr. Tom? Terry will continue as a member of the Finance Council. Lori suggests that Jim Schorer write a note thanking all departing volunteers; all agreed.
- **Opinions about the AR.** "Rounding up committee reports is a hassle." "What about writing at the commission level?" "Use pictures more than words." Lori would like examples of what we do not want to do. "What about a Facebook page?" "People should be taking pictures." "Do we have a camera?" "Yes, we do have one that we use to livestream @BH. Lorie is the best source of pictures b/c people send things to her. Draft ought to be circulated to this committee. Instructions to chairs go out by late June. Jim/Kriss, Lori, and Tom will get out something to the committee/commission leaders.
- **Parish Annual Report for 2024** will involve changes in format, and the timeline will be communicated to committees.
- **Bulletin insert introducing PC members:** we need to set the target date for this article.
- **The parish annual meeting** will occur on September 18, and it will again be concurrent with the annual Volunteer Appreciation celebration. Invitations will be sent on post cards on or about 8/13/24 . This event is hosted by the Pastoral Council and the Stewardship Committee... a planning meeting is scheduled for August 13 at 9 AM.
- **Feedback/approval of minutes from Feb. 7 and April 10** (Kathy W) The process of approval for minutes was reviewed and changed to the following : members will send feedback of approval or with suggestions/questions to the Secretary. When the Secretary has received positive feedback from all members and the chair, the minutes can then be posted to the parish website. Because there has been no negative feedback on the minutes from these dates, the minutes from February 7, 2024, and April 10, 2024, can be considered approved.

#### **Pastoral Council Guidelines: (Kathy W-5 min)**

- PC Membership (end of 2<sup>nd</sup> term for Kathy Wolff as PC Secretary)

- “Stella Maris Parish Pastoral Council Operating Guidelines” stipulate the terms of members: councilors serve three-year terms that are renewable once; officers serve two-year terms that are renewable for an additional term. Kathy would like to remain on Council and will relinquish being Secretary. Officers are chosen “in a process determined by the Council.”
- Comments: Mike and Jim were part of a nominating committee to recruit Pastoral Council members.
- Lori suggests having conversations first prior to forming a nominating committee.
- Lori, Jim, and Mike will go offline and figure out how to recruit more/other members.
- Mission insight could be a useful tool: it draws the boundaries of the mission field and then provides the demographics of the population.
- Larry offered to look over the Guidelines.

#### **Leadership Planning Conference update: (30 min): did we accurately capture the content?**

- Review results from three breakout sessions: liaisons-Tom P; MP-Deacon Tony, Future Ideas-Mike T: look over those ideas and capture the contents.
- Review Exec Summary draft & Eval form (Tom P) read Tom’s evaluation and see what he thinks.” the purpose of Mission planning—he hoped that different commissions would take ownership of the mission plan.
- Tom wants to clean up the data and have the groups talk among themselves.
- Mike suggests that we spend the next meeting reviewing and learning from the notes/data that came from “everyday parishioners” , and we can learn from what happened this year.
- Next year bring the table leaders together ahead of time.
- Next steps-discuss the process going forward (All)
- Open discussion-suggestions for next year (All)
- Org chart was really a surprise to many people; great meeting 60 people
- Acoustics were hard.
- Kathy: it would be preferable for commission members to know the discussion topics ahead of time.
- Lori: Meeting went well, and we need to do follow-up. What resulted/what change?
- Tom will send a report; Lori also feels like people need to connect with the commissions because reconnecting will reinforce the efforts begun on May 22.
- Tom requests noting that the annual meeting is hosted by the parish leadership.
- The parish should begin using the names of the commissions and committees in parish publications and on the website.
- Expand outreach and reference commissions—they are an important part of the parish and of our communication system.

**Concern:** Parish Life is not a cohesive group. Someone volunteered that in their winter parish, each group processes in on Stewardship Sunday, this shines a light on what they do, and also notes what they need. Would that model be useful here?

Thanks again to Kriss and Jim for their work coordinating the meal and cooking that night.

**Closing prayer:** Deacon Kurt lead us in prayer.

**Next meeting: 4 pm on August 7, 2024**