Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
April 16th, 2024

Opening Prayer

Silent Roll Call

- ***Parish Council:*** **Byron Albers, Jeff Stammen, Stacie Enneking, Emilie Winner, Derek Spieles, Ted Beckman, Fr. Ken Schnipke, Steve Gruber, John Stechschulte, Kate Hemmelgarn**

- ***Standing Commissions:*** **Major Bernhold, Kay Schmiesing, Brian Wolf**

- ***Visitors:***

Approval of Minutes
Stacie motioned to approve and Derek 2nd the motion to accept the March 2024 PPC meeting minutes.

Standing Commission Reports

Building & Maintenance (Brian Wolf) – submitted via email

- **Leslie received the quote for the steeple repair and it's really expensive. It would take the entire budget of what we have right now, not including maintenance projects underway, so Leslie said this will likely take a campaign. This is not something I have much experience with as far as with how churches do campaigns nor do I know if the Building & Maintenance even gets involved in that. So that is the big issue.**
- **Northside ramp and sidewalk concrete work is still planned for late May early June. Security is going to be dealt with through Ike Hoying and me. We are going to meet with both Securcom and Nuwave on site. We would like to have those from the Parish council that were involved very early in so they can explain exactly what they want so both companies are hearing the same thing. We will then get the pricing and get approvals to move forward.**

Education Commission (Gina Frick) – submitted via email
Education K-12 (Kim Wiford)

- **2nd grade Jesus Retreat was this past Saturday April 13th. It went really well. All but 3 students were able to attend. The Children of Mary Sisters led the students in reflection and Fatima prayers at the Tabernacle. We then went to the Parish Center where we made our First Communion banners, practiced receiving unconsecrated hosts and juice and smelled the wine used in Mass. Students also wrote their own First Communion prayers. Fr. Ken Schnipke was able to join us for a good portion of the retreat. It was a beautiful morning for our 2nd graders**

- **St. Joseph First Communion is at 8:00a on 4/28, St. Augustine's First Communion is at 2:00 on 5/5. Practices begin this week for both**
- **Fr. Matt will be here on 5/8 during 2nd grade religion classes to bless First Communion gifts and for the 2nd grade Brown Scapular Enrollment.**
- **Vacation Bible School registration is open. The dates for this are 7/15, 7/16 and 7/17. The theme is Team Jesus. Each day will focus on a sacrament: Baptism, Confession and the Eucharist. We are collaborating with the Holy Haus for VBS this summer. There is no limit on number of kids. The deadline to register is May 1st and it is only for St. Augustine/St. Joseph parishioners ages Pre K -4th grade.**
- **Freshmen are taking a fieldtrip to the Shrine of the Holy Relics this Wednesday evening- April 17th.**
- **Last Jr High/HS religion class is April 24**
- **Confirmations for 2025 are still being scheduled with the Archbishop. We tentatively scheduled for a February date.**

<u>Youth Ministry</u> (Stacie Lamm)

- **Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt with Junior High was on Sunday March 24 and collection went very well. Items were donated to Calvary Baptist Church.**
- **Via Dolorosa was held in the morning on Good Friday (March 29). Probably one of the largest attended ever. Estimate 600 or more in attendance.**
- **March 27 & April 10 – were the last the Faith Fire and Daring Disciples Group meetings. Guy Gruter shared his experience being in prison camp during the Vietnam War and spoke about Forgiveness.**
  - **The seniors received a gift and took turns sharing a few sentences about what they learned this year, what was important to them and or why they participated in religion education. This was very insightful.**
  - **Jeff (PPC) said it was the first time in 2 years he has seen the jr. high schoolers sit still and listen.**
- **Damascus Praise and Worship Team was here on April 3 from at St. Augustine. Marion Local students participated**
- **End of year mass will be morning of May 22nd**
- **Baccalaureate Mass will be May 26 at the 11 am mass**
- **Online Registration is being worked on for next year. Hoping to roll it out before the end of the school year**
- **Looking into the program Flocknote for communication. It allows for email and texting**

<u>Commission</u>

- **Only half of the members were in attendance so business was minimally discussed. At May meeting to bring in new members and begin Oktoberfest planning and discussing commission goals**

Cemetery Board (Ed Jutte) – submitted via email

- **Next board meeting not until next month**

- **Met with Brian Kauffman last week, Angel of Hope approved by the donor. He plans to start soon, with estimated completion date of early June.**
- **Woehrmeyer will start on the foundation for columbarium when the weather is fit.**
- **Plaster work on the chapel is complete. Next steps are to paint and reinstall repaired stained-glass windows.**

Mission Commission (Kay Schmiesing) – submitted via email

- **Mission Commission meeting was held April 1st**
- **Speaker was Rev. Robert Warnick and wife , Anita. They spoke on the Calvary Chapel's Food Pantry. They are open for people to come pick up food the second Tuesday of each month. A typical month may provide for 30 some people. Donation of $1,000 given.**
- **Paula and Grayson Moyer thanked volunteers who assisted the Food and Stations during Lent. 40-120 people attended the Friday's sessions.**
- **Garage Sale will be July 21-24 at the K of C. We will be accepting donations after the community garage sale (April 25-27) on Saturday, April 27th, at noon at the Halls of Hanover. An empty classroom has been offered up for us to use.**
- **Karmen Snyder will be making the meals for the PX games. Her needed items will be purchased by the mission commission.**
- **Election for president will be next month.**
- **Guest speaker at the May meeting will be the Ministry of Mothers Group.**

Finance Commission (Major Bernhold)

- **Did not meet in March due to Easter.**
- **Steeples are the next big project. They do think we can find donors to help fund the project. The steeple project is very specialized with few companies that do such work. The company that gave the bid is both reputable with the Archdiocese and will get the job done right. There aren't really many other options.**

o This is a necessary structural project. (They were finished in 1876 and it may be the original copper). The steeples were patched 5 years ago. The old patch was patched again this Spring, but the metal is aging and degrading and the old patch giving out. So we know there are only a couple years left.

o Building and Maintenance and Finance committee members are meeting with the contractor to learn more about what is recommended for the steeples. It was asked if new copper would be used.

o Presentation of this project to the community is important.

- **The Building and Maintenance committee is looking into repair of the concrete steps in front of church, but this can wait. Will look at this project closer to determine what is all necessary.**
- **There will be a temporary ramp installed on the South side of the church with the Northside concrete ramp and sidewalk project planned to start soon.**

PPC Committees

Parish Ministry Committee (Jeff Stammen)

- **No updates.**

EAP/ASP Committee (Steve Gruber)

- **Updates included in Building and Maintenance.**

Elections (Kate Hemmelgarn)

- **Election for officers next meeting.**

Old Business

Needs Assessment

- **At the April 2023 Council meeting, a small group of parishioners presented a St. Augustine needs assessment and possible feasibility study of parish facilities. Initial conversations were held with the Archdiocese exploring the possibility of conducting a needs assessment, and further steps that may be necessary for feasibility and funding. It was determined that other local facilities would need to be explored, including renting space in the Halls of Hanover(HOH). Early June 2023, exploring the feasibility of HOH was put on hold due to legal issues at HOH. In March 2024, legal issues were dismissed and St. Augustine resumed conversations with the Archdiocese to conduct an independent and comprehensive needs assessment. Parish Leadership is convinced that parishioners will expect us to thoroughly explore the possibilities of the HOH due to it's proximity, accessibility and availability. St. Augustine was previously given an option of purchasing the old school (now HOH), but declined. There was speculation why and if it had to do with concerns about maintenance, upkeep or issues with the building itself. This would need to be explored further.**

Church Tour Project

- **In progress with Steve. The goal is to create a self-guided tour of St Augustine. He will be working with Midnet Media to get information on the website.**

New Business

- **Welcome, John Stechschulte! And a special thanks to Ted Beckman for his time and commitment with the PPC.**

Father Ken's Comments

- **Published the CRE position advertisement in the bulletin this week. The job description is on the website.**
  - **When asked about the hiring process, Father Ken said there is a staff interview team including a human resources person from the parish to help with hiring. It's important to use our community's skillsets to help us.**
- **Several applicants for the Director of Evangelization for the parish family and we are interviewing this week.**

- **Question: Thoughts on a priest living here in the future? Fr Ken says always a possibility.**
- **Question: What terms are our priests? Parochial Vicar terms are usually 2 to 4 years. Frs. Alt and Hoying have 2 year terms and have been renewed for 2 more years. Fr. Matt's original term was 4 years. Pastor terms are 6 years.**
- **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) results are coming back. The average national response rate is about 20%, but all our churches were around 50% or above, and some above 70%. The paper results are being added and results will be available by April 19th. There are webinars to learn how to understand the results and then the results will be used to clarify and expand our visioning process with priorities identified for groups across the family of parishes.**
- **Church attendance in Christ Our Light parishes has been high, with the crowds fluctuating from one Mass to another. The 9 AM Easter Masses at Nativity and Precious Blood were nearly double their capacity. It was determined that 9 AM Easter Masses need to be at the four largest churches (St. Augustine, Holy Redeemer, St. John and Precious Blood) to better accommodate Easter attendance. We are one of the few, if only, family of parishes in the Archdiocese that has reached pre- COVID attendance.**

Next Meeting Date: 05/21/2024, 7:00pm

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Executive Session