Christ Our Light Unified Pastoral Minutes

Thursday, February 13, 2025 – 7:00 PM
St Augustine Church Basement

Approved Minutes

1. Prayer & Reflection –

- Fr Ken lead with tonight's prayer
- Sue Bruns read tonight's reading, followed by Council reflection and discussion.
- The Council offered prayer intentions for family, friends, parishioners of the COL Family
- The Council offered prayer intentions for our retired and new archbishops
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2. Archdiocesan Parish Vitality Report 2025

a. https://pathway.catholicaoc.org/parish-vitality-report/ -
Please review the Parish Vitality Report online prior to the meeting and bring highlights and observations to the meeting. It provides the following and more:

- The Council provided a short speakout of what the members noticed in the vitality data presented (attendance, church size, church utilization, mass quantity) by the diocese.
- Nick Wilker presented several key takeaways from the vitality report with a more in depth description of the data.
- The councils and commissions are actively advancing compared to other Families.

b. What parish vitality means and updates on families of parishes - Nick Wilker
c. Number of priests now and into the future
d. Mass attendance & Church utilization
e. Where families of parishes are on the Beacons of Light pathway
f. Six Beacons of Light Principles

- Mass attendances are evening out. Previously, some masses were grossly overcrowded; whereas, some saw below max capacity.
- The Council discussed some barriers involving attendance (attendance in other parishes, parishioners going elsewhere due to large attendance sizes, parishioners are starting to come back with additional Mass)
- Nearly 5,000 people are attending mass within the COL Family.
- In depth look at the number of people attending each mass.
- For the most part, masses are consistent with few outliers. Outliers are easily depictable (confirmations, Welcome Retreats, etc)
- COL Family has a 95% utilization rating, greater than any other family. This means that our churches are, on average, at 95% max capacity.
- Nick showed the 6 question survey available within the diocese website. We should encourage people to take the survey.
- A look at the overview of where we are in comparison to other Families. We are leading. 67% of Families are on track.
- We are in Phase 3 of 5 of the Planning Pathway.
- 9 Families are categorized as "Leading the Way." COL would be in the Top 3.
- A look at other Family structures and how they are composed was conducted. We are currently the only Family with 8 parishes, but there are others that are comparable.

- Nick presented a look at the number of diocesan priests and a longevity projection.
- 1 in 4 priests are eligible to retire in the next 4 years. In comparison to the ordaining priest, the numbers are plateaued through 2030.
- Most of the work being initiated within the COL Family is taking place so a reasonable support and workload for the next generation of priests. Many priests are reporting the large administrative and ministry load that isn't manageable. Fr Ken reports that things are looking better for him. The systems in place (or being established), the leadership teams, and the supports are helping and noticeable. It just takes time.
- A change of mindset is occurring as well. Priests used to be the one to go to for "everything" for a very long historical perspective. This isn't feasible or possible with a larger role in large Families.

3. Christ Our Light Pastoral Plan & Goals 2025-2027

a. Presenting the plan to all COL commissions, committees & groups

b. A Pastoral Plan & Goals Reflection Guide
- A new brochure has been created to help plan and implement (containing 3 goals) with the councils, commissions, etc. This will serve as a personal guide for parishioners and groups and as a visionary guide to operate by.

c. The Pastoral Plan Leader Guide
- Likewise, a leader guide has been produced to communicate the vision, overview, and next steps of our journey through planning to councils, commissions and groups throughout COL. .
- These will be set in church for all to have. Father encouraged everyone to grab some and pass them out to their groups and other parishioners.

4. Christ Our Light Pastoral Council Meeting minutes

a. Being received by members? Review by members
- Members have not been receiving the minutes. Cory felt that it may be attributed to the sharing parameters. The Council discussed alternatives to sharing the minutes. They will experiment until it is figured out.

5. Christ Our Light Mass Schedule

a. Addition of a Sunday Morning 8 AM Mass & Mass counts - New Bremen
- This mass has only existed for a month, but it is being well attended.

6. Christ Our Light Updates

a. Parish Council Bylaws discussion among Marion Parishes
- St Johns has finished their bylaws
- St Sebatian bylaws are done but need to be signed
- Precious Blood has the bylaws completed.
- St Rose - bylaws will be completed within a month. They also reported on the state of their restroom renovation.

b. Evangelization & Adult Faith Formation offerings

- Many youth and adult formations are taking place in the near future: St Monica, 30-day youth group, Ask a Priest Night (Feb 24), The Chosen, Dr Mary Ruth Hackett,

c. Holy Week & Easter Mass Schedule (see below)

- There are a few changes and additions from last year. All masses and attendances from last year were taken into account (too close together, over crowded, under attended, etc). There have been some additions compared to last year.
- A new archbishop will soon serve us. Fr Ken informed us of the transition process (retirement, management, Eucharistic Prayer, etc)
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7. Christ Our Light Family of Parishes Events & Updates

a. **Holy Redeemer -** HR conducted the Ministry Fair to sign up commissions, a new ministry has been established for widows/widowers, renovation committee is taking a long term look at their needs, new handicap restroom with adult lift chair: this will be state of the art!

b. **Marion Catholic Community -** PB is talking about replacing carpet, the kneelers need repair, NAT bylaws will be complete by next week, they are planning a parish picnic, SR updated the Council on their new basement restroom, SJ's roof project will be complete begin in March and completed by June, pews have been refurbished, a new door has been replaced on the west entry, and the boiler was fixed, SB new projects, Fish Fry March 7th,

c. **St. Augustine/St. Joseph -** SA had a successful confirmation, Holy House PreSchool play was well represented-153 participants, cemetery board says they need a new mower, cemetery board approved an increase in yearly fees - 1st time in over 20 years, Mission Commission - SA/SJ created a facebook page, they are suggesting a committee (Welcoming Committee) to welcome new parishioners and baptized babies, 2 new elected members will come soon, old business - getting some cameras and panic buttons and automatic locks to be installed, steeple quotes are in to fix their steeples; greater than $900,000 + $100,000 for the crosses. Hopefully in Fall 2025 and complete in Summer of 2026. QR installations in church to tour the church, sound system is being looked at (high ceilings and hard floors), March 1st they will be joining the bulletin, SJ - redid the bylaws, meeting next week, 2 new members will be joining,

d. Other concerns/questions

8. Concluding Prayer - Beacons of Light Prayer

9. Next Meeting – Thursday, April 10, 2025 at Holy Redeemer Parish Hall

Lent, Holy Week, Easter Mass Schedule 2025

Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2025
7:15 AM Precious Blood
8:00 AM St. Augustine
12:00 PM St. John
12:00 PM St. Augustine Liturgy of Word with Ashes
12:05 PM Holy Redeemer Liturgy of Word with Ashes
4:30 PM Holy Redeemer
5:30 PM St. John
6:00 PM Holy Redeemer
6:30 PM St. Augustine
*7:00 PM St. Joseph (added 2025)
7:30 PM Precious Blood

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper – April 17, 2025
5:30pm St. John
7:00pm St. Augustine
7:30pm Holy Redeemer
7:30pm Precious Blood

Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion – April 18, 2025
12:00pm St. John
12:30pm St. Augustine
1:00pm Holy Redeemer
*5:00pm Precious Blood (was 1 PM in 2024)

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – April 19, 2025
8:45pm Holy Redeemer
8:45pm St. John

Easter Sunday – April 20, 2025
7:00am St. Augustine
7:00am St. Sebastian
7:00am St. Rose
8:00 AM St. Joseph (was 7 AM in 2024)
8:00 AM Holy Redeemer (was 7:30 AM in 2024)
9:00am St. Augustine
9:00am Precious Blood
9:00am St. John (added 2025)
10:00am Holy Redeemer (was 11 AM in 2024)
11:00am St. Augustine
11:00 AM St. John
11:00 AM Nativity (was 9 AM in 2024)

*The St. Augustine Rectory/Parish Office is directly South of the church. Use the parking lot East of church and adjacent to Lincoln St. You can enter the door next to the 4 door garage and go downstairs or use the North office entrance and turn left to go downstairs.