

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

January 19, 2023

Father David opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer. In attendance were members Dana Brown, David Dart, Bill Franz, Kelly Grey, Bob McCarty, and Cy Richards. Father David Leibham, Pastor, and Ms. Jane Heckler, Parish Chief Operating Officer, were also present.

The first item of business was discussion of the Commemorative Book for the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Austin. The Parish pre-ordered 420 copies, 370 in English and 50 in Spanish. Part of the transaction called for the Parish to receive an additional 84 books at no charge, thereby providing the Parish with a total of 504 books to sell or otherwise dispose of. 309 books remain at this time. Father David will check with Ms. Camille Garcia regarding her insight and suggestion on disposing of the remaining books, including the possibility of selling them to other Parishes in need of additional books.

The next item of business involved the Parish Vocations Ministry Committee. Father David and five lay members comprise the committee. The committee is part of a Diocesan effort focused on developing vocations to the Diocesan priesthood. The most important work of the committee is to pray for vocations. The committee is utilizing Rhonda Gruenwald's book on the subject: Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry, which is a comprehensive tome designed for persons working to encourage vocations to religious life. Father David advised that Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Knapp are returning to Emmaus in the very near future. The Knapp's previously served on the national committee for vocations and may be interested in serving on Emmaus's committee. Sister Maria Pasquale is to speak at this weekend's Masses concerning vocations.

Ms. Heckler advised that the 2023 Gala was officially sold out! This year 20% of the proceeds collected for Fund-a-Need will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to provide help for the poor and vulnerable in our community and the remainder will be used to build a Grotto. The Grotto, a place for contemplation and prayer, will have a statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and be landscaped to provide privacy to those praying there.

A project replacing the green wood fence that enclosed the HVAC units and dumpster is underway. The wood fence has been taken down and a masonry wall is replacing it. The wall will be constructed of stone and will be eight feet in height. Gates will be installed to permit access to the HVAC units and dumpster.

Tax forms reflecting contributions will be available after all Masses the weekend of January 28 and 29.

Coffee and doughnuts will be available after the 8:30, 10:30, and 12:15 Masses at Emmaus on February 5.

On Ash Wednesday, Ms. Grace Everett, Director of Admission at Holy Family Catholic School, will present a morning retreat focusing on preparation for Lent. Ms. Everett is completing her

Master of Arts in Theology degree at Loyola of Chicago. There will also be a speaker series throughout Lent.

Father David advised that he and Father Richard celebrate Mass and anoint the sick at nearby care facilities in Lakeway and Bee Cave on the first Wednesday of each month.

The closing prayer was led by Father David and joined in by all.