

St. James Pastoral Council Minutes

August 10, 2022

Members Present: Fr. John Hemsing, Terry Brecklin, Jeff Kenkel, George Fox, Sharon Young, Tim Khoury, Joe Gonzalez, Charles Demge, Scott Granicki. **New Members - Liz Pierce, Lynn Ann Reese**

Not present:

Topic	Follow-up
<p>Call to Order 7:04 PM STJ Gathering Space Scott Granicki offered the opening prayer and reflection</p>	<p>Volunteer needed for– September Prayer/Reflection</p>
<p><b>Approval of the June 8th PC Minutes</b> – Scott Granicki made a motion to approve the June 8th<sup>th</sup> PC minutes, and Jeff Kenkel seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.</p>	
<p><b>PC Member Self Introductions</b> – Since this was the first meeting for several new members, including our first meeting with Fr John, everyone was asked to provide a brief introduction of themselves. The introduction to include – number of years as a member of St. James, years as a member of pastoral council, and one fact about yourself. Father John, provided us with his family history, his calling to a priest, his clerical education and history of assignments.</p> <p>Fr. John expressed that when he taught new priests, he advised “don’t come in and start changing things”. For the first year, you need to find out why a parish does the things it does. So he will stop, look and listen, think and ask question why it is done this way before considering changes. And if/when he considers any changes, he would explain why the change is being made.</p> <p><b>Pastors Report</b> – Fr John Hemsing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Role of the Pastoral Council</b> – Fr. John shared what the Pastoral council’s role is within the parish. Canon law says, <b>“The Pastoral Council of a parish provides valuable assistance and support to the Pastor. Through the Pastoral Council, the Christian faithful along with those who share in the pastoral care of the parish, in virtue of their office, give their help in fostering the pastoral activity.”</b> Working with the pastor to make sure the needs of the parish are met. All members have personal insights, and because of their knowledge and competence, the members of the council are to share with one another, and the pastor, their insights, honestly, with courage and prudence. And so the parish is strengthened by the unity of effort, achieved through reverence and charity. Working together, his desire is to work by consensus. That means giving and taking.</li> <li>• <b>PC Meetings</b> - No meeting should go longer than 2 hours. We have an agenda, we know what needs to be done. Follow the agenda to get the work done, and remain focused.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strategic Plan – Goal 1 – Enhance the culture of invitation and welcome.</b> I think we have to think about evangelization, and re-evangelization. People have gone away from the church, particularly because of COVID. How do we get them excited to return reconnect and join us for Mass. <b>Goal 2 – To enhance parishioner’s spiritual growth.</b> There are many who don’t know what their catholic faith is, or what the church teaches on various topics. If we just has sessions to share - What and why do we believe what we do as Catholics. If we can develop that spirituality within our parishioners, to truly love and appreciate what we are, and believe as Catholics, it will be so inviting to others. I have resources from the seminary that could come out and give talks on these topics.</li> <li>• <b>Parish Budget</b> – Attended the finance meeting last night. Our balanced budget was submitted and approved by the Archdiocese. It is a very tight budget. Chuck noted, one of the goals of the 3-5-7 year plan was to pay off the line of credit, but \$58,000 was taken out to pay for boilers, telephones and new computers. Balancing cash flow, we will have to makes sure we are very prudent with our resources for the weeks and months ahead. We are eligible for the employee retention credit, and if we hold off in submitting for the credit, we may be able to add another quarter in our submission. Our hope is for these potential monies be used to offset the line of credit which we tapped into. The fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30.</li> <li>• <b>Trustees</b> – During COVID trustee elections were not taking place. We will be looking at doing elections again. Chuck filled someone else’s term. Fr. proposed the terms of Joe and Chuck’s be staggered over the next two years, to allow for greater continuity on the Financial Council.</li> <li>• <b>PC Meeting Date Change</b> – Fr. proposed the PC meeting be moved to the second Tuesday each month, directly following the Finance Council meeting. Everyone agreed to the change – next meeting will be Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.</li> <li>• <b>Love One Another Campaign</b> – Started and stopped, but we will participate in the third wave, starting in January 2023. Anyone who already pledged when it was first started, should be receiving notifications. They do not need to re-pledge, otherwise they will receive two notifications. Monies collected are split between the parish and the archdiocese directed organizations.</li> <li>• <b>Permanent Deacon</b> – There is a permanent deacon who is possibly interested in serving at the parish. He is at another parish which has two deacons, and is wondering if we would be interested in having him here. It would require that we take care of his continuing education (\$1000), pay for his retreat (\$500) and mileage. He would do some preaching, baptisms, weddings and, funerals without Mass, visit the sick in hospitals. Scott G. mentioned the Knights of Columbus would be willing to sponsor him. Communication as to the role of deacon needs to be made clear to parishioner. I will interview him, and may only establish a 1 year relationship. Fr. also noted, there is deacon (Jonathan?) who has to do some deacon preaching, he will do some preaching 1-2 times per month through the school year to get experience</li> <li>• <b>Seminary Dinner</b> – This is a major fund rising event for the seminary. It will be held at the Wisconsin Center. Fr. John would like to have a table at the dinner this year, cocktails, dinner, introduction of the seminarians, singing and a few speakers. It will be Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>, \$175 per person, 10 at a table. Fr is getting a table. It will be in the bulletin this weekend. The finance council can find the funds to pay for the tables. Members of the pastoral council are welcome to attend.</li> </ul>	<p>Review the Campaign statement at the September meeting.</p> <p>Mark your calendars 9/13/22 7:00 PM</p> <p>Review plans at tour next meeting</p> <p>Notify Terry if you plan on attending, Coordinate transportation at the next meeting.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Missionary Appeal - August 27/28</b> – Fr. Bob Stiefvader a founder of La Sagrada Familia, will preach and celebrate the Masses. LSF is a sister parish of the archdiocese of Milwaukee, in the Dominican Republic.</li> <li>• <b>Vacation</b> – Fr John will be on vacation the week of August 29<sup>th</sup> through September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fr Dennis will provide coverage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Welcome and Installation Mass for Fr John</b> – A date and Mass time have yet to be established.</p> <p><b>Open Discussion</b> - Members further discussed the questions and ideas related to “Welcoming”. How do we find a way to get kids attend Mass. Why do other activities always trump church? We have guests coming for baptisms and weddings, we should be asking them to join us, welcoming them in. What can we do to make our welcoming better? What does it mean to be welcoming? We need to make it as easy as possible for people to want to come and get involved. Everyone has gifts – how do we tap into them? We need to reach out and contact members, personal calls, acknowledging them, particularly new members joining the parish.</p>	<p>Discuss the utilization of the new Welcoming Coordinator at our next meeting</p>
<p><b>September Meeting</b>  Election of officers  Review activities associated with the Capital Campaign  Reestablishing the Stewardship Commission  Utilization of the Welcoming Coordinator  Finalize a date for Welcoming and Installation of Fr. John</p>	
<p>Sharon Young closed us in prayer  Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm</p>	