

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Room C103 7:00 pm

- Prayer: Greg Ulses
- Formation: Greg Ulses
- Review of Minutes
 - Motion to accept minutes made, seconded, and approved.
- Finance: John Zolper (Pres FC); Dave Vickers (FC); and Greg Ulses
 - The proposed 2022-23 budget is not yet approved. The Finance Council (FC) is meeting next Tuesday to make a final recommendation and submission to Father Pat.
 - Historic data bar chart 2018-2022: General contributions are down by 17%. There is a one-time, extraordinary gift to capital improvements for the bathroom renovations.
 - The parish is projected to run a deficit, with the reserves being drawn down. Income is down over the last five years, but expenses have been held relatively flat. For 2023, expenses are expected to rise as operations return to standard levels.
 - Capital improvements are budgeted: pews and floors covered, while the sound system will be split up between fiscal years. Capital improvement funds are in good shape.
 - The proposed budget estimates collections will be going up 2.5%, with plans for a messaging campaign to help raise awareness. The aging physical plant was the focus of the previous stewardship campaign; operations will be the upcoming focus. Unrestricted income is expected to be flat from this year. The total income for the 2022-23 year is projected at \$2.6 million.
 - Youth Ministry will be going to World Youth Day, and are arranging a fundraiser to defray some of the expenses.

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- Planned capital improvements in 2022-23:
 - Piano replacement: (20 years old and it needs tuning way too often)
 - Front plaza/pavers
 - Columbarium: expansion filled, so another expansion is necessary
 - Bathroom (planning stages). \$198K donated expressly for this improvement
- We are a tithing parish, so 5% of the income is allocated out for worthy causes.
- A \$335K deficit is projected for 2022-23, the largest deficit in the history of St. Mark. The FC is looking at ways to raise income or to lower expenses. Even with expense cutting, we will have a deficit and need to find a way out of it. The reserve is down to \$400K at this point and being used. Inflation is factored into some accounts, others have long term contracts with fixed prices and therefore are not affected. Preventative maintenance is being placed on a schedule on new equipment, making budgets easier and more accurate.
- School Update: Kimberly Parker
 - Tomorrow is last day of school for year
 - Hiring is going well, with six positions open. Three contract offers have been made and are awaiting responses. Two more resumes have been added to the pool. The new Assistant Principal has been hired (five applicants, three interviewed); person selected is someone who Principal Parker worked with at a previous school.
 - Enrollment is healthy and fine. No concerns at this time.
 - The new school year begins for new teachers on August 8, all teachers on August 15, and students on August 24.
- PTPO Update: Kim Parker for Christiane Popperwell
 - Summer launch party: many happy children.

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- Plans are underway to improve the outdoor basketball hoops by the gym. The 8th grade is holding a fundraiser for the hoops.
- July 30: Uniform sale.
- Coming back to normal operations and activities next year!
- Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion):
 - Community Service: Theresa Croson
 - No additional items
 - Religious Education: Andrea Kramer
 - No additional items
 - Community Growth: Betsy Zolper
 - No additional items
 - Worship: Pam Burke
 - No additional items
 - Youth: Sarah Kirk
 - No additional items
- Old Business:
 - Diocese Listening Session – Adam Murray is attending this evening.
 - Ambassador to June 25 Pilgrimage – Fran Smith is proposed ambassador. Crystal is filling out the paperwork and is awaiting approval. Betsy Zolper reporting and will follow-up.
 - Update on Church: shifting Masses to the Cassidy Activities Center from July 1-Sept. 9.
- New Business: None
- Eyes and Ears
 - Should the Eucharistic Ministers bow while carrying the Eucharist? Common sense expectation that when carrying something, you do not bow. This is consistent with the lectors' training that

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they do not bow when carrying the Book of Gospels. Lectors also do not bow when going up to the ambo in the church since they are not crossing in front of the altar.

- Mary Garden: Concern about the bush in front of Jesus on the plaza (too big), the bush is a barrier to accessing the statue. The bush has been pruned down as growth was to the level of the Sacred Heart, now cut down to the waist. Also, a retired principal of the architecture firm that worked on the breezeway commented on the tree height. The breezeway was made with glass so you could see the chapel from the parking lot, especially when lit at night. The tree (a large crepe myrtle) and the tall bushes are blocking this view. There is also a potential safety issue as they are close to the walkway. Recommendation is to go out and look to see the difficulties and potential solutions.
- Fundraising policy: Not allowed, except for four events carried over from many years ago.
- Court reporter converting homilies to text: This process works only on an iPad and is not available on an iPhone or Android. This is available once a month for one Mass, as the volunteer sets up a wireless network to do it. While it was advertised last month, no one took advantage of the opportunity. On another note, is the PA allowed to access a talk to text function?
- Would it be possible to have greeters to help visitors and newcomers during the summer? This might cross-purpose with the ushers. Also, EMs and/or lectors could serve as reinforcements. Put the new group under Community Growth. Do not be surprised with no's, as previous efforts have had ups and downs. Critical volunteer shortages can occur during the summer..

- Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Meeting Ends: 8:23 PM

Next Meeting: September 22, 2022

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To: St. Mark Pastoral Council

From: Theresa Croson
Service Commission Representative

Date: June 6, 2022

Re: Service Ministry Report for June 9, 2022 Meeting

Bakers for Funeral Receptions: Mary Lou McIntire reported that volunteers baked for one funeral held in June with a second reception scheduled for the middle of this month.

Clothing Drive: Paul Renard reported no new information until July 2022.

English as a Second Language (ESL): Monica O'Keefe previously reported ESL will be offering a free weekly Summer Conversation Class via Zoom from June 21-July 28. The regular ESL classes will start again in September 2022.

Giving Tree: Carolyn Peterson reported no new information at this time.

Hot Meals (FACETS): Dave Kent reported that on Monday May 16, FACETS volunteers distributed 111 meals to 34 people which were used to feed 96 people. The menu included hot chicken pasta with onions peas, carrots, peppers and celery. Included was a roll, Oreos, applesauce and raisins. This meal also provided water and milk as beverages. There were approximately 20 volunteers preparing the meals and assisting with the meal distribution.

Hypothermia Shelter Program: Pilar Oishi reported no new information until late August.

Matthew 25: Bill Grossman previously reported that Matthew 25 continues to collect many needed items for Family PASS.

Social Action Linking Together (SALT): As reported by John Horejsi, Virginia General Assembly (VGA) just passed the SALT supported Senate Bill 581, which directed the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to convene a workgroup to review and make recommendations on the reduction or elimination of costs and fees charged to inmates in local or regional correctional facilities. The types of fees that will be assessed include: those related to the costs of an inmate's keep, work release, or participation in educational or rehabilitative programs; telephone services; commissaries; and electronic visitation systems.

Social Action Linking Together, was invited in SB 581 to participate in the workgroup and has provided the name of a well-qualified individual to serve as its facilitator. As stated in SB 581, the workgroup will report its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2022.

Additionally, SALT's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) was recently passed to include a five percent TANF increase in compliance with the previously passed mandate, to keep increasing TANF every year until it exceeds 50% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This is action item is now pending the Governor's signature.

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The VGA's Budget also included making the Virginia Earned Income Tax (VEITC) refundable; a goal that has eluded SALT since it 1993 its proposal was downsized to a non-refundable VEITC. This action item is now pending the Governor's signature.

SALT Coalition led SB 108 to End Solitary Confinement proposed legislation was downsized and passed as a workgroup study. The Coalition will report its findings on or after December 1, 2022.

Religious Education Report for June 2022

The search for a new Director of Religious Education (DRE) is underway. The search committee includes Fr. Pat, Kevin Flores, Andrea Kramer, Mark Morneau, and Kim Parker. Resumes have been reviewed, and interviews began the week of June 6.

SACRAMENTS

1. Eucharist: First Eucharists were celebrated at all Masses on the weekends of May 7-8 and 14-15.
2. Confirmation: On May 23, Confirmation was conferred on our parish youth by Bishop Emeritus Loverde, which was a change from the initial plan for it to be Bishop Burbidge. Due to a COVID spike at the time, 5 teens were unable to participate in the Confirmation Mass. Arrangements are currently under consideration as to when and how their celebration of the Sacrament will be rescheduled, either with delegated authority for Fr. Pat to confer it later this summer or for the teens to join in another parish's fall Confirmation Mass with one of the bishops.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The summer adult formation offering is a book study and discussion being held Tuesday evenings over Zoom. The selected book is *Seven Lessons from Heaven: How Dying Taught Me to Live a Joy-Filled Life* by Mary Neal, MD. Discussions will run June 14 through August 23.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 11-15, and registrations are currently being accepted. We are still looking for more adults and teens to volunteer; we especially need a strong, engaging presenter to serve as the emcee that begins and ends each half-day of camp.

Worship Commission

No June Report as of now. Meeting is Monday, June 13 and the report will be forwarded to all.

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Middle School

- The April & May Youth & Family Masses went on without any hiccups. Again, it was smaller turnout than usual for both, however for the May Mass and activity, the giving of flowers to the moms was a hit a Mass. It was unexpected and was appreciated by many moms. The activity afterwards was a game show theme (similar to the Newlywed Game). Moms and their daughter or son would team up and answer questions and hopefully matching their partner's answer for points. We had six teams playing for a grand prize of a \$50 gift card to a choice of 4 local restaurants. The runner up teams got consolation gift cards.
- Middle School WorkCamp will be at St. Leo the Great parish on July 10-13 with 4 other parishes. So far, only 2 St. Mark youth have registered. Hoping more will register by the June 13 deadline.
- Steubenville Conference at Franciscan University will be July 15-17. We have three other parishes and Bishop O'Connell HS coming along with us on a big bus. St. Mark is bringing 7 youth plus Sarah and Kevin as chaperones!
- NET Day of Reflection for 1st year Confirmation is Saturday, April 30th in the CAC (9 am – 7 pm) It went off well and the NET team appreciated our hospitality...thank you Sarah for opening your home again!

High School

- WorkCamp is coming together with St. Thomas A Becket joining us. It will 8 youth overall, 4 adult leaders, 3 contractors and 1 nurse volunteer and taking place at the former Aylor Middle School in Winchester County from June 18-24.
We still need a few Security Adult volunteers to help on Tuesday, June 21st!
- The Mother's Day Bake and Flower Fundraiser raised another \$2000 for WorkCamp 2022. Thank you to our Flower Ministry volunteers for showing the WorkCampers how to arrange the roses and carnations into vases.
- WorkCamp Fundraising this year was very successful; so successful, that the WorkCampers only had to pay their initial \$100 deposit! They would like to thank all of the parishioners of St. Mark for their support!
For a parish fun event at the close of WorkCamp on Friday, June 24th, the St. Mark WorkCamp group will play some Ultimate Archery in Sterling.

College / Young Adults

- I am looking for volunteer leaders to develop activities thru the St. Mark FB page. Tom and Courtney have moved on.
- Upcoming events will still be emailed my way on a monthly basis from the Diocese.

CYO Sports

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- CYO Track and Field Championship Meet went very well with St. Mark youth placing in the first place in many events!
- CYO Volleyball went well this year after a 3 year absence and their records were above .500! One group entered into Bishop O'Connell's Special Scrimmage against other teams in the Diocese and came in second!

Scouting

- Closely working with Todd Lundquist and Phil Root with Scouts and leaders to involve them more in the parish youth activities.
We hope to get their help to paint the curbs again this summer before school starts.

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