

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2022

6:00PM – 7:30PM

**Pastoral Council Members Present:** Sue Coyle, Deacon Mike Eash (Pastoral Lead), Mark Mongin, Erin Rosales (Chair), Elizabeth Strick, Daniel Thiel (Secretary Trustee), John Zadrazil

**Pastoral Council Members Absent:** Alex Barker (Vice Chair), Chong Ly, Anne Staelens

Meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Erin.

Liturgy of the hours was led by Deacon Mike Eash.

Agenda was motioned for approval by Elizabeth, seconded by Sue. All were in favor.

Minutes from the January 2022 meeting were motioned for approval by John, seconded by Elizabeth. All were in favor.

### **Parish Life Discussion:**

**Erin said the semi-annual meeting follow up was nice to have and was well attended.**

Deacon agreed this was well received. The meeting was a testament to engagement of parishioners. There were 47 parishioners in attendance at this meeting.

**John asked where the new evangelization leader position was in the process?**

Deacon said this would be a monumental life shift for the gentleman that has expressed interest. There has not yet been a formal interview. There has continued to be open dialogue between Deacon Mike and this potential candidate. The gentleman is currently making a significant wage compared to what would be able to be offered by our parish. However, this position would allow for him to remain within his community and close to his family.

**Sue asked if there is any other candidate?**

Deacon said there has not been to this point, but he also added that he has not put out real long feelers to this point.

**Erin asked what things we as a parish community need to be more mindful of, since staff is working harder to cover the open full-time position? Wondered if pastoral council could help with the work load?**

Deacon said that there are small groups going to be formed to study where the church is at in relation to the culture. Support of the Catholic Church is waning quickly. As support erodes, the culture is getting hostile. Deacon is proposing small groups that study weekly, for seven weeks, totaling approximately 30-45 minutes at each meeting to discuss the booklet reading. In May the plan will be to bring all of the small groups together. In the study guide we can summarize each chapter. What Deacon Mike is hoping for is that the Holy Spirit will help participants go out into the world and spread the Word. It will help older people view church how it is today, versus what it once was. The booklet is *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. It will be rolled out through discussion in homilies this weekend.

The booklet was prescribed by the Bishop of Sioux Falls for all schools and parishes in his Diocese. This will be the Lenten Study for our parish. There will be separate Lent books apart from this small group opportunity.

**Mark suggested prior existing small groups to re-establish for this study. If you don't have a group, then call the office to find placement in one of the existing groups.**

**Mark observed that we have little interest at the high school level in mission trips. Mark thinks we need to start at a younger age to establish this interest as children grow, so families will follow. Mark wants to revisit service activities with younger youth, such as a church sleepover, followed with a day of service the following morning.**

Deacon Mike says the *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission* book states that the 1970's and 1980's were filled with high divorce rates. Couples involved with the divorces, often fell away from church, and therefore their children were not connected to the church at all. There is a generation of non-church goers as a result.

**Dan suggested to Mark that there has been talk of parishes joining forces as parish attendance falls. He suggested that we should get ahead of the curve, and network with other parishes to improve and increase the youth movement. This may be more fruitful as youth may bring friends to events and evangelize this way.**

**Elizabeth said we need to be offering opportunities that have specific age demographics to improve engagement. She suggests more activities for returning college students need to be considered.**

**Elizabeth asked what was the condition of the youth room downstairs? She suggested opening this during coffee and rolls for youth.**

Deacon Mike said, Emily Jenks, prior to the COVID pandemic had discussed using these rooms for similar functions. Deacon said they would need to place security cameras down there as that was the intention when Emily made the requests.

### **Plans for Pastoral Council in 2022**

**Recruiting new members:** Erin reported that we have three Pastoral Council members finishing the third year, of their second terms. These include John Zadrazil, Daniel Thiel and Chong Ly. The council will be down to seven members.

Twelve members is the maximum. Erin and Deacon reported that twelve is not necessary, but that we can have up to twelve. Alex had reached out to the candidates from our last recruitment that were not selected. These candidates did not show any interest this time around.

**Dan suggested that a member of the council give a testimony at the ambo at weekend masses to demonstrate to the parishioners what the pastoral council is, and what it means. He volunteered himself.**

**\*\*Deacon asked that Dan make a draft of his testimony and bring to the next Pastoral Council Meeting.**

Elizabeth led closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned by Erin at 7:25PM.