

**Minutes: Sacred Heart Pastoral Council
December 9, 2018**

Members present: Mike Bradley, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Jim Lincoln, Kevin Owens (Chair), Eric Patera, Mary Schweitzer, Charlotte Snekvik, and Charlotte Worthy. Also present: **Mary Sutherland**, Parish Secretary.

The meeting opened with the Our Father.

Old Business:

Land Acquisition – progress update: On November 7, 2018, the parish made an offer through an LLC of \$329,000 for the property next to the parish office at 450 NE Ash St. We were able to because of a donation from an anonymous parishioner. The offer was made through an LLC since the price might go too high if the owner knew the parish was making the offer. If we owned that property we would have more land to work with, a better way in and out of additional parking, and it would increase the overall value of our property by at least 10%. Our realtor received a reply a few days ago. The owner will not accept a bid at any price and has no plans to sell. Kevin made the offer again in the name of the parish, in case the owner is Catholic, to see if that makes any difference. He has not heard back yet.

Building Committee update: The building committee has met twice. They are considering many options, including acquiring a different piece of property in this area, such as the lot next to the apartment building behind the church. Those properties might only be useful for parking, which would make them an expensive purchase.

They are looking at what we can do with our current space. Can we expand the sanctuary in an affordable way? In the worst case, that we can't afford to stay here, they are continuing to look for land in another part of town.

They are brainstorming many ideas, such as solar panels and other 'green' construction, having a small chapel for daily Mass and other small services to avoid heating or cooling the main sanctuary, having more than one story in part of the building, etc. They are contacting three architecture firms, in Lewiston, the Tri-Cities, and Coeur d'Alene.

Nametags for Pastoral Council Members: Char handed out the nametags. They are on clips.

Marketing Committee is forming this month: Their first meeting is December 18.

Schedule of Commission Presentations: The Faith Formation board will be ready to present in January. The Liturgy and Worship commission is scheduled for February. We need to let them know. The Community Outreach commission will present in March. All commissions will sum up what they have been doing, what they are doing now, what their plans are, and what obstacles they are facing. This will all be in a written report that will be sent to the pastoral council ahead of time to save time during the meeting.

New Business:

Building up the Finance & Administration Commission: This commission includes the building committee, stewardship, maintenance, and gardening. We don't have anyone in charge yet. The members came up with a couple of people who could possibly co-chair the commission. One has parish finance experience, and the other maintenance. We need to ask younger parishioners and college students to participate on committees also.

Pastor's remarks:

Oktoberfest follow-up meeting, parish auction: The committee has great ideas for next year. The parish auction will probably be moved back to the fall. The Oktoberfest could be held in mid-September when the weather is better, and the auction in late October as it was before. Attendance and revenue for the auction were better in the fall.

Parish neighbors: We have established good relations with our neighbors. Yesterday Fr. Steve knocked on the doors of all the surrounding houses and apartments and told them about the house that was emptied out by burglars last Christmas break with a U-Haul. He asked which ones are actually moving out, so that we can call the police if we see a moving truck where the students are not leaving. A number of members commented that our good rapport with the neighbors is due to Fr. Steve's outreach to them. The parking lot is much less of a problem now.

Open church: People are coming in and out to pray. Some are concerned about the nativity set, but that is one of the risks we take to be open. We won't buy expensive pieces. We want people coming in.

Leaf raking: We had an extraordinarily big group helping. They were done in an hour and a half. Thanks to the Knights for breakfast.

Caritas meeting: This group which gives money to charity in the name of the parish has re-formed now that parish finances are better. They had \$5,000 to distribute last year and \$6,000 this year. They need two more members. They will ask some previous members. A representative from the Pullman Schools Food Panty Program will visit with them in January. The Caritas committee is also researching how best to help refugees. Part of the purpose of the group is to give visibility to good groups so parishioners know about them. Rosario's Place, which helps WSU students in need, has a fund of money with the Caritas group. When they need money they ask for a check.

Social media: This is going well. Our Facebook account has about 130 people following it, and Instagram has about 30. We are looking into live streaming Mass from our webpage. There may be copyright issues.

Sound system: Keith Curran is bringing a proposal to Fr. Steve on what we need to buy to make the system work well in the church and annex. He has researched what we have and what we need. Members said that a Bluetooth system that people with hearing aids can connect to would be helpful.

Church as sanctuary: This is on the back burner. We haven't heard anything from the group at WSU. The staff has some idea of what to do if someone shows up asking for sanctuary.

The meeting ended with the Glory Be prayer.

Next meeting: Sunday, January 13, 9:45 am. Submitted by **Mary Sutherland**.