



**Pastoral Council Regular Meeting  
St. Elizabeth Room  
September 17, 2019**

**Present:** Fr. Dan Sanders, Fr. Matthew Jacob, Susan Arensmeier, Doug Borys, John Clark, James DeGuire, Jim Kochan, David Kriete, Cathy Liska, Monica Misey, Joe Russell, Ken Sosnowski

- I. Opening Prayer – meeting opened with the shared reading of the prayer for church dedication that will be said by Archbishop ListECKI during the ceremony on December 22.
  
- II. Housekeeping Items
  - a. Approval of August 20 Meeting Minutes – a motion to approve the minutes was made by Jim Kochan and seconded by James. The motion passed with unanimous approval.
  - b. Casino Game Night scheduled for September 21 has been canceled. A new activity to support parish wide athletics will be evaluated.
  - c. Fall Landscape Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday October 12 at 9am.
  - d. The next scheduled Pastoral Council Meeting is on October 15.
  - e. October 5 – Make a Difference Day for middle school formation/Lumenators. They will be assisting seniors and others with clean-up activities.
  
- III. Commission Reports and Actions (see attached)
  
- IV. Buildings and Grounds Committee Charter – Joe distributed the draft Building & Grounds Committee Charter drafted by James. The objective of this Committee is to formalize the maintenance process of our largely new physical plant going forward. The buildings and systems are now newer and “smarter”, and we need to be on top of their operational requirements and appropriately train staff. Feedback included:
  - a. Proposed that Council revisit the draft at the October meeting. Suggested that the verbiage of the draft Charter be made more high-level removing the specific responsibilities outlined in it to make it more flexible.
  - b. Will need input from Finance Council regarding the number of quotes required (Responsibilities item 2).
  - c. Fr. Dan sees this committee fitting best as a sub-committee of Finance Council. Suggested that as the Ad Hoc Building Committee dissolves upon completion of the building project, this sub-committee would replace it. Target start of January 2020.
  - d. One cleric vs. two as members was thought to be sufficient (Structure and Succession).
  
- V. Pastor Update and Miscellaneous Items
  - a. Church Dedication – the Communications Committee will meet on 9/19 to continue with preparations for the Dedication Ceremony.
  - b. Time Capsule –
    - James DeGuire secured a donation of the stainless-steel container with welded corners. The finished outside dimensions will be 14” W x 24” L x 5” D.



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- Discussion continued from the August meeting about specific contents. Agreed that the filled capsule would be displayed at Masses the weekend of September 28/29 and be blessed. Joe will coordinate the collection of contents.
  - The letter drafted by Monica Misey memorializing the decision to move forward with the expansive building project during these challenging times was read (see attached). Council resoundingly approved Monica's letter for inclusion in the time capsule with one minor word choice change. Determined the letter would be sent to the 9/19 Communications Committee meeting for inclusion in their preparations.
- c. The new Parish Life Night Format that includes a half hour of joint Commission/Ministry social time with wine, etc. was deemed a great success.
- d. Jim Sabec is recovering from his car accident suffered the week of September 9.

VI. Vespers - the meeting closed with vespers.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Arensmeier

## Commission Liaison Updates for Pastoral Council Meeting on September 17, 2019

- **Stewardship (MaryElise Cervelli)**
  - Discussion with Catherine about the LC dedication
  - Discussion with Jane B. about membership numbers, households and options for electronic giving. Also, the request for the Stewardship members to be Mass greeters at the 11/9 & 11/10 Masses during Stewardship Week. Yes!
  - Continued discussion on the updating of the New Member Welcome Folder.
  - Decision agreed upon to postpone the next Lifetouch Directory until well after the dedication.
  - New Parishioner breakfast to be scheduled in conjunction with the LC Catholic Schools week Sunday open house.
  - Change "Stewardship Corner" to "Stewardship Reflections" in the weekly bulletin.
  - *Will be updating Ministry Handbook*
  
- **School (Joe Russell & Ken Sosnowski)**
  - Update to be provided at meeting.
  - *Enrollment up a bit from last year.*
  - *Girls dress code was discussed at last commission meeting related to the monthly out of uniform day.*
  
- **Human Concerns (Monica Misey and Cathy Liska)**
  - Respect Life film series four Saturdays in October following the 4:30 Mass - Unplanned (abortion) - Spotlight (clergy abuse and coverup) - (sex abuse/trafficking) will get the title - Immigrants in the Heartland (immigration)
  - Father Dan to host a second twin crisis listening session, Wednesday, October 16th
  - Archdiocese Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry kick off Mass held 9/14 with Sr. Norma Jean Pimentel, (respite center director in El Paso, TX) luncheon, Mexican music and culture
  - Catholic Coalition for Migrants and Refugees has a World Refugee Day 10:30 am Mass planned for 9/29 at St Michael, Milwaukee
  - Catholic Charities list of volunteer lawyers who provide free legal advice to migrants and refugees is available - <https://www.ccmke.org/CatholicCharities/pdf/LSIAttorneyReferralList2016.docx.pdf>
  - LC Implementation of Pope Francis' World Day of Migrants and Refugees on 9/29 - Goal: raise awareness of plight of migrants and refugees in our world - provide personal opportunity to pray in solidarity with all God's children - Implementation: Parish lobby display - 9/27-10/3 week of World Day of Migrants and Refugees - 10/19 & 10/20 week of Parish Respect Life film on immigration - 12/7-12/15 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Announce World Day of Migrants & Refugees in parish bulletin and flock notes - 9/22 & 9/29 - Pulpit invitation to offer prayers on 9/29 - Parish display to include: Our Lady of Guadalupe picture on easel - Shoe of child who walked across the Mexican-Texas border, seeking asylum - 8 year old migrant child Felipe Gomez Alonzo photo, died in US detention 12/24/18 - along with photos of other children who also died while in US detention - Two migrant prayer card handouts
  
- **High School (Drew Braaten)**
  - No new updates
  
- **Building Items (Doug Borys, Susan Arensmeier)**

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- The building is slightly ahead of schedule.
  - Marble for the altar and stone for the bell tower is transit.
  - Stained glass windows, including the Christos window, are being fabricated.
- The Marian shrine will be a mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Proof to be reviewed by Joe Wittmann prior to ordering.
- Finances are ahead of schedule due to additional non-pledge donations.
- Gifts received:
  - Christos narthex window
  - Chevron and Spiritus altar windows
  - Crucifix
  - Bell refinishing and 3<sup>rd</sup> bell
  - Organ
  - Audio system
  - Outdoor sign
- Discussion items:
  - North entrance update
  - Time capsule
  - Chapel south wall glass
  - Cemetery update
- Dedication: December 22, 2019 at 2 PM
  
- **Finance (Jon Van Drisse & David Kriete)**
  - Finance Council meets before PC meeting – update to follow
  - *John Clark distributed the 6/30/19 YE Financials. The Parish ended with a \$34k loss which will be funded from Unrestricted Savings.*
  - *Mass counts are down 2-300 each weekend which is reflected in Envelope and Offertory Contributions. E&O is down approximately \$40k so far this fiscal year. This was anticipated but it is hoped that it will turn around once we are in our new space.*
  - *Anticipate under \$2million of Long-Term Debt at the conclusion of the building project. Hope to retire that as quickly as possible.*
  
- **Deanery Level Items (Doug Borys)**
  - No new updates
  - *Fr. Mike Bertram is recovering miraculously well from his car accident.*
  
- **Catholic Formation (Susan Arensmeier, Karen Bersch)**
  - **Staff Changes**
    - **High School Ministry** - Amy Kroll has taken over the role of High School Youth Minister and began the first week of September
    - **Middle School** – Nikki D’Cruz began as our new Middle School Minister the second week of September and is looking for 6 catechists. If you know of anyone who might be interested (convinced or bribed) please give Nikki a call.
    - **Child Ministry** – Kate has been present at weekend Masses introducing herself and helping with the cookies that were distributed and with the hospitality for Missionary

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Sunday last weekend. A catechist training session was held on Monday night for child ministry and catechists are in place for grades K4 through grade 5.

- **Catechetical Sunday** - A blessing for catechists was held at both the 9:30 Mass and the 6:00 Mass. There was a short introduction of our new staff members at all Masses this weekend. Catechists received a blessing and a bookmark and classes begin on Sunday, September 22.
- We are formulating the specifics for the beginning of classes next week and communicating this to parents via Flocknote. Up to this point, we have had very little inconvenience with the construction but are now looking at spaces for our programs that have been displaced. Most of our hours are in starting the fall programs and especially finding and training catechists. We are in great need of middle school catechists. The other grades are filled.
- Some of the new things this fall are:
  - Family sessions during CF classes
  - Make a Difference Day
  - A series on Acts of the Apostles
  - A new way to do the Angel Tree
  - Visioning on moving to Family Catechesis
- **Prayer and Worship (Jim Karolewicz & Jim Kochan)**
  - The meeting began with a discussion of difficulties with scheduling and training of the new ushers and greeters. The flexible or floating scheduling system has led to some occasions when there have been too many at one Mass and too few at others. In addition, the new people often were not familiar with the routines they were to follow. The scheduling system is still in transition. It will soon be supplemented with printed schedules, which should reduce uncertainty and confusion. It was proposed that the team structure be recreated with an experienced team leader (head usher) who would train and direct the new members of the team. This would be especially helpful when we move to the new space.
  - The orientation meetings were very helpful, but did not include instructions on logistics during the Mass. That instruction would be done by team leaders.
  - For new lectors, the orientation/instruction will be more intense. Each new lector will be instructed/coached individually. For the lectors, the computerized schedule appears to be working satisfactorily.
  - Planning for the new space is well underway. The Sunday Mass schedule will be 4:30 pm on Saturday and 8:30 am, 11 am and 6 pm on Sunday. There will be 11 Eucharistic Ministers at the Saturday and Sunday morning Masses and 8 or nine at the 6 pm Mass. There will be 4 ushers at each Mass and 5 greeters. All those details will be finalized at November Commission meeting, and all new schedules will be completed in December.
  - Training/practicing in the new space will be tricky. We don't know if there will be opportunities to use the new space for training in the days before the dedication or before the Christmas Masses. If possible, each Ministry leader will conduct training in the new space. That scheduling might be possible by the time of the November meeting.
  - The Dec. 22 Mass schedule will be 4:30 on Saturday, 8 am and 9:30 am on Sunday and the 2 pm dedication Mass. The Christmas Mass schedule will be 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm and 10 pm on Dec.24 and 9:30 and 11 am on Dec. 25.
  - *The MSP app is very helpful and includes an audio function whereby one can hear the weekly readings.*

## **Commission Liaison Updates for Pastoral Council Meeting on September 17, 2019**

- *Fr. Dan, Margaret, Peggy and Moira will meet with the Prayer and Worship Commission on 11/9 to discuss the ministry vision going forward*
- **Trustee Level Items (Jon VanDrisse & John Clark)**
  - No new updates
- **Pastoral Leadership/Staff (Joe Russell)**
  - No new updates

*Respectfully updated by Susan Arensmeier with notes from the 9/17 Council meeting in italics*

## Pastoral Council Letter Drafted by Monica Misey for Inclusion in Time Capsule

In 2017 and 2018, the Catholic Church in many countries and here in the United States was rocked by another round of sexual abuse scandals. Many people were hurt, disappointed and leaving the Church. Young people felt a disconnect between culture and religious belief. Fewer people were coming to Mass. Why would anyone think it was time to renovate and expand?

Also, there were the financial challenges which followed a severe economic recession nine years earlier. It was difficult to sustain the many ministries of a large parish as people gave less to charitable institutions. Would a new building be feasible or even financially possible?

Three ~~option possible~~ plans were presented to our Pastoral Council members on August 22, 2017. Option 'one' would just take care of the overdue repairs needed. With option 'two' we could renovate the church within the existing footprint, but we would lose seating. Or, with option 'three', we could dream big: raise the roof and expand the seating, reorient the sanctuary and main aisle in the traditional format with the altar on the west, build an adoration chapel with 24 hour access, add windows to bring in light, images of the truths of our faith in stained glass and mosaic, move the baptismal font to be centered near the main entrance, and improve overall accessibility. Above the main entrance we could build a beautiful bell tower with a cross, signaling who we are to everyone who passes by, and hopefully welcoming them to stop in.

Why would anyone think it was a good time to build all that you see today? Because we had hope.

We built for you, the future parishioners reading this note. We built upon the hope that God's truth and love would flourish despite humans' mistakes. We built with dreams that this place could welcome in people and help them encounter God and a loving parish community. We built with trust in God, that it was our turn to keep the light of Christ present and shining in our community.

And so, we hope you continue to hope, dream, and trust in God. Keep the light of Christ in your hearts and pouring forth to others. May you continue to be "One family sharing the love and light of Christ."

- Pastoral Council, 2019