

## **St. Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family**

### **Parish Council Minutes – Wednesday, October 6, 2021**

1. Meeting Opening - A meeting of the Council was held on October 6, 2021, in Saint Anthony's church basement (all churches and chapels are hereinafter abbreviated with first initials). Msgr. Avila opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Attendance - Council members and Deacons present included: Msgr. Stephen Avila (hereinafter referred to as Fr. Steve), Co-Chairs Jim Quinn and Frank Geishecker, Mat Baldasaro, Jane Hopewood, Carolyn Malchodi, Bill Malchodi, Paul April, Mary Lou Palumbo, Susan Cronin, Ellen Driscoll, Paul DeMeo, Deacon William Hays, Deacon Peter Guresh, Deacon Pat Mahoney, Paul DeMeo and Mary Ellen Powers. Deacons absent included Paul Harney and John Simonis. Also present by invitation was Tom Palanza, newly appointed Pastoral Coordinator.
3. Secretary/Minutes - The meeting began at 6:05 PM. Bill Malchodi served as Secretary. Minutes from the August 17, 2021, meeting were approved as submitted.
4. Fr. Steve introduced Tom Palanza as our newly hired Pastoral Coordinator. Tom has a master's degree in theology, and Father Steve described his qualifications and some of the duties he will be assigned, including RCIA, and wedding/funeral intake.
5. Father Steve and Jim Quinn announced that Frank Geishecker has been appointed as Council Co-Chair.
6. Father Steve and Jim Quinn announced that Parish Council membership will now consist of staggered three-year terms. Existing Council members were asked to volunteer to serve for one-, two- or three-year terms to provide continuity and stability. Parish Council members volunteering to serve for the remainder of the current fiscal year and to then step down from Parish Council on June 30, 2022 include Jim Quinn, Bill Malchodi, Paul April, Ellen Driscoll, and Mary Ellen Powers. Parish Council members volunteering to serve until June 30, 2023 include Deacon Bill Hayes (who will then continue to serve on the Council in an ex officio capacity as is the case with the other Deacons) Paul DeMeo and Mat Baldasaro. Remaining Council members will serve until June 30, 2024.
7. Father Steve announced the need to appoint a new Finance Council for our parish and said that Diocesan preference is for Finance Council members to not serve at the same time on Parish Council. He anticipates having a six-person Finance Council with representation from SA, SP and SES and solicited proposed candidates.
8. Father Steve distributed a two-page list of parish capital improvements which have either been completed during the past two years or are currently underway. Father described some of the projects and mentioned that the list would be placed on our website for interested parishioners. Father also made the general observation that our Parish finances are in "good shape" and said that Danny Cunha would make a presentation on finances at a future meeting. Father attributed our solid financial condition to careful stewardship and observed that our on-line giving program continues to grow.
9. Father Steve observed that eulogies at funerals have become problematic due to their growing length and secular nature. Eulogies at funerals are supposed to be brief and to focus on the religious virtues and faith of the deceased. Instead, eulogies increasingly focus on non-religious aspects of the decedent's life and often are inappropriate for a

- Catholic funeral Mass. Father had moved them to the beginning of the Mass but is now considering eliminating them entirely as some other parishes in our Diocese have done.
10. Father Steve spoke of the benefits of creating a new Parish wide women's organization to replace the previous women's groups which went out of existence when the new parish was formed on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He mentioned the success of two parish wide men's groups which have attracted a growing membership (That Man Is You and the former SES Men's club which now has a parish wide membership and name.) Father Steve asked Mary Lou Palumbo to spearhead such an effort, and Mary Lou mentioned her observations about Christ the King Parish's successful women's organization. Mary Lou spoke of the goal to have such a group be both a spiritual and social organization. She anticipates holding a meeting of interested women from all three previous parishes in coming weeks to gauge interest in this effort and to determine next steps.
  11. Father Steve distributed a FAQ sheet announcing an upcoming Synod of Bishops. The Synod's long-term goal is to "re-orient the local Church toward an inherent synodal attitude in decision making processes through communion, participation and mission." By adding a Diocesan phase, the Synod's short-term goal is to "have successful consultations in a synodal spirit reflecting on the state of the Church in journeying together." Father Steve announced that Frank Geishecker and Mary Lou Palumbo will serve as Group Coordinators from our parish. One of the goals of this effort is to "reach those who have been distant from the Church." Parish Coordinators will attend an orientation workshop in early November and begin a parish participatory process which will run through February of 2022.
  12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Malchodi