

Congregation of the Immaculate Conception – St. Mary’s
Pastoral Council Minutes
Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

The pastoral council will work collaboratively with pastoral leadership to prayerfully address the pastoral needs of our parish, so all may grow in faith, hope, and love.

Present: Fr. Soja
Bill DeGroot, Chairman
Derek Parker, Vice Chairman
Karen Harrison, Secretary
Beth Honeycutt, member
Bob Podnar, member
Kathy Fabry, Trustee
John Bjork, member

Absent: Tom Williams, member

Guests: Dan & Cindy Throm

1. Prayer: Pastoral Council Prayer: Father Soja, Lectio Divina by Kathy Fabry
Readings read by: Bill DeGroot & Kathy Fabry
The following shared their reflection of the readings: Kathy Fabry, Father Soja, John Bjork and Bill DeGroot
2. Additions/Changes to Agenda:
No changes or additions
3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting of 2/22/24:
Motion: Karen Harrison, 2nd Derek Parker, All in Favor, Motion Carried
4. Visitor Comments:
Dan & Cindy Throm brought in the plaque with the listing of all of St. Mary’s Pastors. Pastoral Leaders are also listed on this plaque. Should the Pastoral Leaders be removed and have a separate plaque? Should this be brought up with the Finance Council?
5. Finance Council Updates:
 - a. Discuss attached minutes from April 18 Finance Council meeting.
Derek Parker commented on the financial statement that St. Mary’s looks to be doing better financially than we once thought.

6. Church Directory for Parishioners & Parish Census Outreach

- a. A letter was sent out to parishioners the week of April 7.
Kathy Fabry reported 155 letters were mailed out to active parishioners. There were 23 letters returned that voted yes to a directory and 8 returned no. We also have 155 inactive parishioners. Eleven responded yes to having Father come and bless their homes.
- b. Possible letter to benefactors if there's interest in being in a special section of our parish directory?

Father brought up maybe offering benefactors the opportunity to be in the directory to help increase numbers by mailing a separate letter. Bill responded that benefactors are contributors but not members of the parish.

After much discussion the council decided against the directory due to lack of interest. A note will be made in the parish bulletin. Father Soja and Kathy will continue with the home visits.

7. Volunteer Breakfast is scheduled for September 8

- a. Father Soja will find coverage so he can attend.

8. Comments on Holy Week

- a. Is there interest in doing Stations of the Cross an hour before the noon Good Friday service – who could lead it?
The Parish Council was asked to keep this in mind – and bring any questions or concerns to the council.

9. Replacement of Members

- a. John Bjork and Beth Honeycutt are past their terms.
These 2 members are next to be replaced.
- b. Please bring suggestions for possible new members
Nominations: Bob and Debbie Gibson, Dave Zelten, Dennis & Karen Podnar, Roy Reitz, Gary VanBellinger, Sally VandenHeuvel, Missy Roberts, Monica Gatzow, Trudy Rochon, Jeanne Waitrovich.

Father Soja will be calling each of the nominees.

10. New Business:

Carolyn Lemanski wanted to know the council's thoughts about having 2 scholarship recipients. There are 2 seniors that have met all the requirements. Do we give both \$500.00? Does this set a precedent? We have only given one scholarship in the past. The council feels this should remain as one recipient. Should this be brought to the Finance Council?

11. Council Comments:

Kathy Fabry asked if anyone does an outreach to the nursing home. Father Soja responded that the first Friday of each month has mass at the nursing home and Carolyn Lemanski assists. Dorothy Vayda is interested in helping with homebound. Will Dorothy need training to become a homebound Eucharist minister?

Father Soja also mentioned he can visit the homebound on Friday's and asked the Council to spread the word to others for awareness.

Father Soja shared a letter from the Diocese about offering both species during special occasion masses. We will need to ask for volunteers to help with this. Put in the bulletin requesting help. The first mass for this offering is for the Feast of Corpus Christi on June 2nd.

12. Items to add to the next Pastoral Council agenda:

None

13. Next Meeting Date: June 25th, 2024, at 6:10

14. Prayer: Fr. Soja

15. Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Kathy Fabry, 2nd Derek Parker, All in Favor, Motion Carried.

Meeting Ended: 7:30 p.m.