



# Saint Bartholomew Church

Faith. Fellowship. Service.

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## PASTORAL COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes Apr. 19, 2023

**Present:** Fr. Andrew Umberg, Kathy Rothschild (Business Manager), Jerry Yox, Joanne Hauser, Joe Arnold, Joy Niehaus, Jon Tobin, Colleen Wietmarschen, Charlie McDonald (Secretary)

**Absent:** Matt Jung, Ashley Evans, Ken Radziwon

**Guests:**

**Opening:** The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM by council chair Jerry Yox, with Fr. Umberg saying the opening prayer.

### Approval of 1/18/23 Council Minutes:

Joe A. made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Colleen W. seconded and they were approved.

### Festival Update:

- Jerry said our parish festival is on for this year and will be held the last full weekend in July.
- Some of our sister parishes will be helping; Tom Ewing and Kristy Lanier from St Vivian PTO will chair the gambling tent, Jim Schultz from Assumption will chair Split the Pot, and Dave Evans from St. Bernard (with help from Mother of Christ) will chair the French Fry Booth.
- Fr. Umberg said gambling booths at most parishes have been some of the larger money-making booths at the festival but they take a lot of people to staff, so it's necessary to have honest people working these booths.
- Kathy said booth profits will go to the parish organization sponsoring the booth if an organization is involved. In the case of the money booth, St. Vivian PTO volunteers will be working the booth. Kathy said they wouldn't have done it if they weren't getting the profits.
- Jon asked if a parish organization mans and sponsors a booth, do they always receive the profits? Some discussion took place and Fr. Umberg said we should have further discussions about this-he prefers the money go to the parish at large.
- Jon suggested possibly just some of the booth profit goes to the organization sponsoring the booth instead of all.
- Kathy wants to make sure the overhead for a booth be paid before profits go out.
- Jerry suggested we move forward this year with organization-sponsored booths then afterwards have a broader conversation, perhaps in the fall. Fr. Umberg agreed and wants to be involved with the discussions. Jerry said he will talk to Bill Mauntel next week about having a meeting after this year's festival is over to discuss in more detail.

### Kathy Rothschild's Presentation

- Kathy said roofs on the KAC and the rectory have been replaced, and now the church roof needs to be replaced.

- Ryan Dalton (his Dad started Dalton Roofing but Ryan has his own company) gave the lowest bid of about \$195K to replace the church roof and Kathy spoke highly of him, saying he did a great job on the KAC and rectory roofs.
- Fr. Umberg agreed the roof must be replaced and Kathy asked for approval from council.
- A discussion took place by council members and Joy made a motion to approve the expenditure for the St. Barts roof replacement as outlined by Kathy. Joe seconded. The vote result: all approved and the motion passed.

**Easter and Lent Update:**

- Fr. Umberg said his three Lenten talks were well attended. He was very pleased with the amount of information presented at each of the three unique talks and thinks they were well received. He also felt the talks were a community and parish family builder and said, since he presented the talks and we didn't have to hire an outside speaker, they were free to the parish. He would like to do this again but not sure if the event will be at St Barts next time, although he likes the facilities here. He may ask other parish councils to see if anyone else is interested.
- Fr. Umberg said Fr. Haft was finally able to move into the living space at St. Barts right after Christmas. He had to wait quite a while for water damage to be fixed and some renovations to be completed; the space is quite nice now.
- Fr. Haft presided over the St Barts and St Vivian Triduum and Fr. Umberg asked council if all were pleased with the Triduum. There were several positive comments and Colleen said she liked that both choirs were together.
- Fr. Umberg said the Easter celebrations at Assumption also went well.
- Fr. Umberg said the celebration for Holy Thursday will get more elaborate in the future to make it more impactful for those who come. The Triduum may be different next year and will somewhat be dependent on the health of the three priests.
- Fr. Umberg said they were able to buy a very nice copper bowl and pitcher at a substantial discount for the washing of the feet ceremony.
- Eventually there will be one Triduum at one parish when we finish combining.

**Beacons of Light-Father Umberg:**

- Fr. Umberg said we may have one main campus and 2 satellites in the future.
- Beacons council members have had tours of all 6 campus properties. Joy N, one of the Beacons council members, said touring the campuses was very valuable. Fr. Umberg would also like members of each pastoral council to visit each of the parishes for a facilities tour. Some of the facilities are larger but even the smallest properties show investment by the community.
- We are supposed to have at least 2 social events as a group for all 6 parishes, one in the spring and one in the fall. So far no one on the Beacons committee has come up with suggestions concerning what the events should consist of.
- Fr. Umberg thinks a corn hole tournament would be a fun and inexpensive event, and could possibly include beer, soft drinks, hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers. All expenses would be split by the parishes and setup would be easy. The event would probably not be held at St. Barts and could be in June or Sept.
- Another idea is to rent Stricker's Grove for a picnic. This would be much more expensive and will require more discussion. Stricker's Grove is totally booked this summer so we may want to consider it for next summer.
- A quick straw poll of council members showed that all were in favor of both ideas with the stipulation that the events not be held within 3 weeks of the festival.
- Fr. Umberg said Assumption is planning to have an event similar to a Turkey shoot in the fall.
- Joe A., who is also a member of the Beacons council, gave some planning documents to Jerry Yox that will need to be filled out.

- Fr Umberg said he will be “driving the bus” concerning Beacons of Light.

### **Pastor's Update-Father Umberg:**

- Fr. Umberg said when he first got here, he found out many of the priests' vestments were dated in regard to the liturgy. He ordered purple and green chasuble and dalmatic sets for St Bart's and St Vivian and showed one of the green dalmatics to council. He also explained the differences between the vestments (chasuble for Priests and dalmatic for Deacons) and their significance. He will be looking for volunteers from each church to modify the vestments for better fit.
- Fr. Umberg spoke about **stewardship** and defined it as “What I do with what I have, if I believe in God.”
  - The amount of giving by members of the Catholic Church has been uneven for years, but funds were maintained at an acceptable level in the past by large bequests when a parishioner died. But even bequests have dried up and are at a much lower rate than in the past.
  - Expenses continue to rise, especially in the Catholic school system where Priests and Nuns used to donate their time but are increasingly being replaced by lay staff that need to be compensated.
  - According to Matthew Kelly, the 93/7 rule applies to church stewardship: 7% give 93% and 7% do 93% of the volunteer work.
  - In order to survive and thrive as a parish family, we need to look for ways to increase participation in giving by our parishioners.
  - The first step is to increase communication to parishioners to let them know a financial problem exists and needs to be addressed.
  - Fr. Umberg said he will be giving talks from the pulpit about giving, maybe 4 times/year.
  - Jon asked if we can increase communication with parishioners in ways other than the bulletin since read rate is so low.
  - Fr. Umberg said increased communications will be somewhat addressed by the Beacons of Light process. We will have a new unified and well-updated web site using our new family name, Our Lady of Divine Providence.
  - Kathy R. said the St. Bart's Facebook and Instagram pages could include more information about expenses and giving.
  - It was decided council needs to have another conversation about other communications methods soon.
  - Jerry said we may want to better publicize parish expenses.
- Fr. Umberg said he would like to look into putting together bus trips to destinations such as the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus OH and to a Ruthenian-Byzantine church. He would also like to look into short ecclesial trips for retirees.
- Fr. Umberg said Randi Hom has been hired as our family's full time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. She has a certification in youth ministry and 10 years' experience in the Hamilton area.

**Next meeting:** Fr. Umberg suggested Aug. 16, Sept. 20, and Nov. 15 as our meeting dates for the rest of 2023.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Fr. Umberg.

Respectfully submitted by Charlie McDonald.