



Saint Bartholomew Church

Faith. Fellowship. Service.

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes April 17, 2024

Present: Fr. Andrew Umberg, Jerry Yox, Ken Radziwon, Joe Arnold, Joanne Hauser, Joy Niehaus, Ashley Evans, Jon Tobin, Colleen Wietmarschen, Charlie McDonald (Pastoral Council Secretary)

Absent:

Guests:

Opening: The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by council chair Jerry Yox, with Fr. Umberg saying the opening prayer.

Approval of 8/16/23, 10/18/23 and 1/17/24 Council Minutes:

Joy Niehaus made a motion to accept the minutes as revised; Joe Arnold seconded, and the motion passed.

Holy Week and Easter Evaluation:

- Fr. Umberg began the discussion with Palm Sunday. At the beginning of Palm Sunday Mass, Father asked all to leave their pews and proceed to the Narthex where they were asked to pick up a palm and process back to their pews. Father asked for opinions from Council concerning this procedure. Ken thought it was done in an orderly fashion and liked Father's explanation of the process. Joe said he's in favor of having the procession but didn't feel it was publicized enough; he also thought the Narthex was a little too small to accommodate all. Joe suggested going outside next time and perhaps Father could stand in the outside doorway facing outward. Father said he may try this next year, weather permitting. He also said he will have information about the procession put in the previous Sunday's bulletin. Joy suggested having the person making announcements before Mass let everyone know about the procession. Ashley suggested a small handout outlining the procedure be given to all as they enter.
- Father said he was quite pleased the way Holy Thursday Mass turned out this year despite a small issue with not having enough hosts. All council members who attended said they were pleased with the Mass. Joy felt there should have been an explanation about where people go after the Eucharist was placed in the chapel.
- Father said the Good Friday service went well. Jon said he liked the way we adored the cross in the middle aisle, and Father said it may be good to have 2 lines coming up to the cross in the future.
- Concerning the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Vivian, Father said one challenge was to darken the church enough but not make it too dark. Father said he prefers not to turn on the lights until the candles are lit and the Gloria starts.
- Father said he still plans to have Good Friday services at both St. Bartholomew and St. Vivian for at least one more year, and Holy Thursday services at one parish and Easter Vigil at the other.
- Father said the Easter Sunday Mass at St. Bartholomew went well but said it took quite a while to sprinkle all parishioners with holy water since there was no Deacon at the Mass. Even though it took some time, he felt it was necessary for holy water to be sprinkled on all in attendance.

Resurrection Display for Easter:

- Father said he would like to put up an Easter display in the future, consisting of a statue of the resurrected Jesus, a painting of a sunrise on the wall, a large paper mâché stony hill with rocks, tomb and crosses, and real and artificial flowers. The display would be assembled on Holy Saturday, although not sure at this point if this will be done next year or in a future year. The display would be taken down after the 4th Sunday of Easter.

Potential for new Digital Sign:

- Father said a parishioner came forward saying he will pay some or all for a digital sign for St. Bartholomew. He will investigate this soon and said JPll will likely contribute some. St. Bartholomew would be the primary owner of the sign, but JPll would likely use it a lot, free of charge.

Beacons of Light and Pastor's Update-Father Umberg:

- Father said he has decided to proceed slower at this time with the process of combining our 6 parishes. One reason is there will be a new Archbishop in the not-too-distant future who may have different thoughts about the process. He's still planning to continue with an evaluation of each church property by an outside company to identify the major ongoing and upcoming expenses of each. For instance, some major future expenses at St. Bartholomew will be a new boiler system, parking lot rebuild or resurface, replacement of church carpet and replacement or updating of the church pews. Father said he is hoping the evaluation of all 6 parishes will commence this fall.
- Father said there will also be a liturgical evaluation of each of the 6 worship spaces. Whichever campus becomes the main worship space will have some major changes to its appearance. There will likely also be 1 or 2 satellite campuses but will need to see how things play out.
- Will keep separate bulletins for at least another year.
- Jon asked Father if we should have another family-wide corn hole tournament this year. Father said possibly, but it may be moved to another church campus, possibly Assumption. Father said we need to hold family wide events so all get to know each other better.
- Father said Stricker's Grove has no openings this year, but we will stay on their waiting list for next year. He asked to let him know if anyone has any suggestions about a different venue.

Next council meeting: Father said he prefers to have 4 council meetings this year. It was decided to have our next meeting on **Wed. Aug. 21 at 7 pm.**

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

Respectfully submitted by Charlie McDonald.