



Saint Bartholomew Church

Faith. Fellowship. Service.

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes March 25, 2025

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

Absent: Joe Arnold

Guests:

Opening: The meeting was opened at 7 PM in the KAC upper room by council chair Jerry Yox, with Fr. Haft saying the opening prayer.

Approval of 1/21/25 Special Council Minutes:

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

Air Conditioning Update:

- Fr. Haft said demolition of portions of the old A/C has begun and he signed a check today for \$7K to CAC. He said it looks like all piping that connected the outside condenser unit to the inside heat exchanger has been removed. The inside air handler/heat exchanger unit has been removed and a new concrete pad poured. A new electrical disconnect panel has been installed.
- Ken said he was a little surprised a check was cut since it was his understanding we didn't have to pay until the system was installed.
- Jerry asked if someone is overseeing the work; Father said Paul Petronio will be periodically checking their work. Jon suggested bi-monthly updates on the system to make sure all is being done in a timely fashion. Father will ask Kathy Rothschild about keeping us informed.
- Jon asked about cleaning the ductwork; Ken said he wasn't sure if that was included in the quote. Father said it looks like the ducts still have original lining and will ask Kathy. Ken asked about videoing the ducts, which needs to be followed up on.
- Ken said he gave an update on the A/C project at the 2/15 and 2/16 Masses. Jon asked if we should give another one and Father said perhaps the lectors can make the update.

Finance Council Update:

- Fr Haft said Kathy Rothschild recruited 5 members for a new Finance Committee; the first meeting date is still being scheduled. Responsibilities of the committee include advising the pastor in financial matters, review the finances, and help approve the budget for the next fiscal year. Father said the Finance Committee will receive a very detailed report about all parish finances, not just a summary. Father said St. Bartholomew has been working with a very tight budget over the past several years and will need to find ways to increase revenue. Father also said a parish Finance Committee is required by Canon Law. A brief discussion took place regarding our financial situation and if things might be different if we had a financial committee for the past 5 or more years.
- Ken asked Father if we will also put together a new Buildings and Grounds Committee. Father said it would be best to wait until the parishes are combined before the committee is formed.

- Father also said all 5 Pastoral Councils will be retained for now but eventually there will just be one

2024 Beacons and OLODP Annual Report:

- Fr. Haft asked if there were any questions about the information included in the recently released 2024 Annual Report. Jon said he had mostly financial questions, some related to grounds upkeep around the school. Father said Mike Hauser has been cutting the grass at no charge since we still don't have a full-time maintenance person.
- Father said we had to pay for some tree and snow removal, but this is a shared expense with the school. Jon suggests we increase the school rent. Father said we have a contract with the school that doesn't expire until 2029. He also said the school is paying for any capital improvements. Jon said we may want to investigate ways to use the school building to generate income and/or utilize volunteers to help decrease expenses. Both of these areas should be discussed by the Finance Committee as possibly ways to help balance our budget.
- As previously mentioned, Father said we need an increase in our Sunday offertory since our budget has been so tight. Colleen believes a lot of parishioners don't know where the money goes, including the 9.5% Archdiocesan assessment, so the financial report in the annual report is a good start.
- Jon said the total cash and investment assets row in the financial report really stood out to him, especially when comparing the low total cash and investment amount of St. Bartholomew with several other of the parishes. A question came up about where the investments are being held and Father said they are mostly in a very large pooled account administered by the archdiocese; the account earns a fairly high interest rate since the amount is so large. He also said most of the money raised for the new A/C at St. Bartholomew is in a checking account, and the new Finance Committee will investigate ways to invest the money until the balance of the A/C bill needs to be paid.
- Father said this is the first annual report for our family of parishes and our Beacons liaison worked with us to have it published. Another report will be prepared and published in the fall, most likely in November.

Next council meeting: Tuesday June 17, 2025

Respectfully submitted by Charlie McDonald.