



**ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Feb. 6, 2024

Members Present:

Rev. Gabriel Baltés, OSB
Doug Becker
Maureen Cunningham
Konnor Damery
Jeremy Jackson

Mat Klody
Tom Kmiecik
Andrea Uribe

Absent:

Mike Budd
Jacqueline Skelly
Leanne Van Gronigen
Brad Vaupel

Dick Webb
Mitch Whorlow

I. OPENING

Evening Prayer began at 7:05PM, and was led by Maureen and Tom.

The meeting began at 7:20PM.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

October minutes were approved by Doug, and seconded by Jeremy.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Open Discussion

Father Gabriel asked the Council to suggest any topics they would like to discuss in the upcoming months. These topics should be shared with Maureen for future meetings. Doug brought up the topic of communicating the progress of the renovations of the church to all parishioners. He suggested photo updates and general timelines and details during the work could be published in the bulletin or on the electronic bulletin boards. Fr. Gabriel gave a general outline of the campaign plan for the renovations. This plan involves commencing renovations in late May or early June, holding Mass in the school gym over the summer, completing work

by August or September, and getting a blessing of the newly remodeled worship space by the Bishop in December. Tom raised the question of earlier discussions about changing Mass times on Sundays. Father Gabriel stated he is not seriously considering this plan yet. Father Gabriel also mentioned that the glass panels of the saints will be adjusted and new lighting installed after the renovations are completed. Doug raised the topic of the Nativity being placed in the Narthex this Christmas, and everyone agreed the new placement received positive comments from parishioners. Maureen reminded everyone that the Adoration Chapel schedule had been sent to all, and paper copies were available at the meeting.

b. Laudate Deum

Dr. Chris White will speak at the March PPC meeting regarding this document from Pope Francis. A copy was distributed at the meeting, and Father Gabriel urged everyone to read it by the next meeting on March 5. Every parish, per the Diocese of Joliet, should have a plan supporting Laudate Deum. Copies have also been distributed to the SJA school teachers, and Dr. White will speak to them at a future teacher inservice day.

IV. PASTOR'S UPDATE

a. Parish Mission

The Mission will be held Feb. 19th through the 21st at SJA. The talks will be given by Fr. Jack Conley, a Passionist Priest. The theme is Let Us Dream a Path to a Better Future which is based on an invitation from Pope Francis. The mission will be presented at 10am and 7pm each day. Konnor will be working on future mission speakers and topics. PPC members are asked to send Konnor their suggestions.

b. Jesus and the Eucharist Study

Konnor is doing a 7 week small group study on this theme. The presentation materials are from the Augustine Institute and the Eucharistic Revival. The format, two hours in length, is prayer, video, small group discussion, video, and small group discussion. About 30-35 people have signed up, and Konnor mentioned the class is good for face to face interaction with fellow parishioners. In the future, he may look at a shorter time span for these classes to get higher enrollment (like Father Gabriel's classes on Penance last spring).

c. Christ Renews His Parish Men's Retreat

This retreat is being done in conjunction with Our Lady of Mercy Parish. The retreat is for men ages 18 and over, and will be held at SJA March 9th and 10th. Maureen mentioned getting together a retreat like this for women in the future.

V. SCHOOL BOARD AND FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATES

Jeremy reported that the teachers are putting the finishing touches on the School Vision plan. Open House was well attended, and the goal for next year's enrollment is 400 students. Jeremy also reported from the Finance Committee that the parish is in strong financial shape. Doug asked if the parish school identity is well maintained, and it is

not viewed as “just a Benet feeder”. Jeremy stated that a large focus of the school parents is on SJA and all that it offers. Their approach to the school is very well rounded.

VI. DISCUSSION OF THE PARISH PILLARS

The School portion of the pillars has been covered. Maureen will work with Matt Zurek on a portion of the pillars for an upcoming meeting. Jason Martyniak will be at the March meeting to discuss the pillars pertaining to facilities. Father reviewed parts of the Worship section of the Pillars which were distributed to everyone present at the meeting. Konnor will now oversee lectors, ushers, greeters, and communion ministers. Matt Zurek works with the altar servers. Jim Susic will review the pillars regarding the music ministry and provide updates. Father Gabriel will work with Rosanna Smith, the sacristan, on a few areas of the worship section. Father Gabriel mentioned that the current Eucharistic Revival Committee has taken the place of the Commission of Divine Worship. Children’s Liturgy of the Word will be revisited in the fall. Volunteers who can commit regularly are needed. All PPC council members were asked to make notes on these pillars, and bring their copy to the next meeting.

VII. BOOK DISCUSSION

Chapter 5 of *The Shattered Lantern* was reviewed. Mat Klody led the discussion.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00PM in Room 24. Father Gabriel set these goals for the March PPC meeting: review the Worship Pillars, read Laudate Deum, bring questions for Jason, and bring new topic suggestions for future meetings.

VIII. CLOSING

The meeting ended at 9:02PM. The closing prayer for the Eucharistic Revival was provided by Father Gabriel.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Eldrenkamp

Recording Secretary