



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

March 5, 2024

Members Present:

Rev. Gabriel Baltés, OSB
Mike Budd
Maureen Cunningham
Konnor Damery
Jeremy Jackson

Mat Klody
Tom Kmiecik
Michelle Picchione
Jacqueline Skelly
Andrea Uribe
Mitch Whorlow

Absent:

Doug Becker
Brad Vaupel

Dick Webb

I. OPENING

Evening Prayer began at 7:01PM, and was led by Maureen and Mitch.

The meeting began at 7:15PM.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

February minutes were approved by Matt, and seconded by Tom.

III. PRESENTATION ON *LAUDATE DEUM*---DR. CHRIS WHITE

Dr. White opened the presentation with an explanation on how reading *Laudate Deum* moved him to examine what he was doing for the environment. The document is well referenced and has scientists to back up the data. In his writing, the Pope stresses how care for the planet is theology, and we all need to take individual responsibility for the environment. Dr. White asked the PPC for guidance---is this issue a priority at SJA? Mike mentioned that he sees more interest from people to invest in companies that align with moral and social teaching. The council discussed how the SJA Earth Matters ministry supports many of these principals. Mat suggested an Environmental Awareness update in the bulletin to help increase awareness of these issues. Andrea discussed some individual steps her family has been taking, and Maureen summarized by saying we all have a personal responsibility to care for the environment. Fr. Gabriel wrapped up the

discussion by stating the parish needs guidance from Dr. White on this issue. Dr. White will return to the next PPC meeting to provide more information and guidance.

IV. CHURCH PROJECT UPDATES –JACK HAYES AND FR. GABRIEL

Jack runs a construction company, and is overseeing the renovation work in the church. Jack distributed a timeline of the work to be done, and the companies completing the project in each area. After the last school Mass on June 4, all daily and Sunday masses will be held in the school gym. During renovations, all baptisms will be in the gym and all funerals will be at the Abbey based on their availability. St. Margaret Mary will be approached by Fr. Gabriel about funerals if the Abbey is not available. In coordinating with the school, daily Mass will be moved to Room 22 of the Parish Center on Aug. 12 when volleyball practice begins in the gym. There will be 300 chairs set up in the gym for weekend masses, and use of bleachers has yet to be determined. The piano will be moved from the church to the gym at the start of renovations, and a new sound system will be installed in the gym during spring break. Jacqueline raised a question about starting renovations in May, but P.E. classes, end of year school events, and the Parish Corpus Christi celebration prevent work from starting earlier than June 4th.

V. PARISH PILLAR---FACILITIES---JASON MARTYNIUK

Jason presented the PPC with a timeline of updates and maintenance work needed to the following buildings on the SJA Campus---Church, Parish Center, Rectory, and School. Much credit goes to Mario for all the landscaping work and how beautiful the campus looks in all seasons. Costs of the updates and maintenance presented were discussed by all present. A question was raised about using any leftover money from the Capital Campaign for some of these repairs. Both Fr. Gabriel and Jason answered that this was a possibility.

VI. PARISH PILLAR---WORSHIP---FATHER GABRIEL

Father Gabriel pointed out that a Worship Committee no longer exists, but the Eucharistic Revival Committee has been very fruitful in their work. Fr. Gabriel is going to ask the members of this committee to remain and transition to a Worship Committee for next year. Father reviewed his handout regarding the Parish Pillar of Worship with the PPC, and pointed out which staff members were responsible for specific areas. He also reviewed the Parish Pillar of Music which is overseen by Jim Susic. Father pointed out the blended approach to musical styles that Jim uses at all masses. Konnor mentioned how this approach is good for attendance, and does not divide services by musical styles. Mat brought up the point that a number of new parents at the school have a very positive energy, and we need to brainstorm ways to capture that energy so those parents will attend Mass more

regularly. Mitch mentioned that he has observed the children wanting to go to Mass because of their positive experiences here often pulls in the parents.

VII. COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS PILLAR UPDATES

Maureen will work with Matt Zurek on the final pillars for remaining meetings. Fr. Gabriel noted that the Pillars have been presented in various manners, and all need to be finalized in a consistent format. Maureen will work on the final document.

VIII. SCHOOL BOARD AND FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATES

No updates at this time.

IX. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Maureen requested that PPC members send topics to her prior to the next meeting. Fr. Gabriel reminded all that Dr. White will speak again at the next meeting. Tom reiterated that PPC needs more ideas from Dr. White about what our parish should be doing in support of *Laudate Deum*. Mat would like to discuss how to capture the momentum of the school parents and increase their involvement at the church. All PPC members agreed that communication from both the church and school via the website, emails and bulletin has improved and become very effective.

X. SERVICES FOR GARY EMORE

Visitation for Gary Emore will be on Sunday, March 17 from 1PM -5PM at Blake Lamb Funeral Home.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00PM in Room 24.

XI. CLOSING

The meeting ended at 9:06PM. The closing prayer for the Eucharistic Revival was provided by Father Gabriel.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Eldrenkamp

Recording Secretary