



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

June 4, 2024

Members Present: Rev. Gabriel Baltés, OSB Tom Kmiecziak
Doug Becker Lori Trinche
Maureen Cunningham Andrea Uribe
Jeremy Jackson Mitch Whorlow
Mat Klody

Absent: Mike Budd Brad Vaupel
Jacqueline Skelly Dick Webb

I. OPENING

The meeting was preceded by a dinner at 6:30PM in Room 22 for all Parish Council Members. Evening Prayer began at 7:04PM, and was led by Maureen and Andrea.

The meeting began at 7:17PM.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes and SJA Strategic Plan

The May 7, 2024 Minutes were approved by Doug, and seconded by Tom.

The SJA Strategic Plan 2024-2029 was approved by Tom, and seconded by Doug. Maureen will send copies to the School Board. Doug will work on condensing the document for the Parish website. Father Gabriel will have Tricia DiChristofano post it on the website, and he will announce to the parish when it is available for viewing. Maureen will check with Matt Zurek if the Boy Scouts of America still exist, and if a new name for the group needs to be updated in the Strategic Plan.

III. PASTOR'S UPDATE

- a. Thanks to Council Members leaving:** Father Gabriel thanked Mat and Andrea for their service to the SJA Parish Pastoral Council. Each was presented with a statue of St. Joan of Arc in appreciation for their service.
- b. Changes at St. Procopius Abbey:** Abbot Austin has resigned as Abbot after serving in that position for 14 years. Brother Guy will take over administrative

aspects at the Abbey for now. The election of a new Abbot will take place in June, 2025.

- c. **Enhancement Updates:** Father Gabriel noted that today was the date of the last Mass to be held in the church until the interior work is completed. Jack Hayes is overseeing the organization of the work and the timeline. Father Gabriel explained in detail how the pews would be refinished, and how new kneelers with quiet springs will be installed later this summer.
- d. **Staff Updates:** Konnor Damery has resigned as Director of Adult Faith Formation. He will be back in July for the Eucharistic Revival trips involving SJA parishioners. Chase Stevens, Director of Religious Education will be leaving in August to pursue a career in counseling. Father is currently looking at candidates for both of these positions. Doug asked about school positions that are currently open for next year. Jeremy noted junior high religion, science, and social studies were all positions open for the upcoming school year. Communication on newly hired teachers is sent out by the school administration in August.

IV. NEW BUSINESS—END OF YEAR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- a. **Do you believe the Council is effective as an advisory body for the Pastor and St. Joan of Arc? If so, why? If not, why not?** Father Gabriel began this discussion by pointing out a need for more input from the PPC. Mat noted that he has observed a trend of the PPC becoming more passive over the last few years. In an effort to be more proactive, Mat suggested topics for meetings be emailed to members well in advance, and all should come prepared to discuss these topics in depth. Jeremy discussed giving goals and specific roles in the group to each member. He elaborated on the structure of the SJA School Board, and how it functions successfully. Mat reinforced the idea of assignments to a sub-group with a specific goal keeps members engaged in thinking about their role and representation throughout the year.
- b. **How can we improve the Parish Council?** Maureen suggested looking at PPC's in other parishes. There was a lengthy discussion on the need for restructuring the PPC so that members, invited by Father Gabriel and going through a process of discernment, would choose a specific pillar to represent on the council. Tom pointed out that having directors of different areas speak to the PPC regularly would be most helpful to PPC members in fulfilling their advisory role. Regular communication and follow up emails amongst PPC members would also assist in making the council more proactive.
- c. **Is the Council too large or the right size?** Diversity in membership was agreed to be a critical factor to the success of the PPC as an advisory body. Doug brought up the fact that the by-laws call for 18-25 members on PPC. Maureen pointed out that many groups should be represented on the PPC---school families, religious ed. families, IMPACT, adult faith formation, outreach ministry, etc. . She also noted the need for finance people to be on the PPC to address the need for future maintenance needs in the updated Parish Pillars.
- d. **Are the meetings too frequent or not frequent enough?** The consensus of those present were that fewer meetings with a larger number of members on PPC

would be most effective. Father Gabriel said that 4-5 meetings a year would be good. Father Gabriel encourages all PPC members to attend meetings more regularly. Tom pointed out that it is okay to cancel a meeting if there is nothing to discuss. Mitch noted that many areas are running smoothly, and that is why there are few topics at some meetings.

- e. **Do you find discussion of books and articles impactful or fruitful for the Council?** Andrea commented that a book club through Adult Faith Formation would be a better venue for book discussion. Doug suggested just reading shorter articles for PPC meetings, but Father mentioned that articles are harder to find.
- f. **Are there topics or issues that you suggest we discuss?** The need for PPC members to be more visible to the parishioners was identified as an area needing improvement. Discussion followed regarding ways to do this: photos and names of PPC members on SJA website; members being available after Masses to chat with parishioners; and to continually work on getting more people involved. Father Gabriel will invite people to discern joining the PPC at the end of the summer. With the addition of some new Parish Office staff and a renovated worship space, this fall is the perfect time to capitalize on some changes to the PPC.

Father Gabriel urged all PPC members to keep tonight's discussions active. Mat will email everyone tomorrow to continue the discussion, and Maureen noted that all PPC members need to respond.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 27th at 7:00PM in Room 24. The current schedule of meetings for next year is: Aug. 27, 2024; Oct. 1, 2024; Nov. 5, 2024; Dec. 3, 2024; Feb. 4, 2025; March 4, 2025; April 1, 2025; and May 6, 2025.

V. CLOSING

The meeting ended at 9:29PM. The closing prayer for the Eucharistic Revival was provided by Father Gabriel.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Eldrenkamp

Recording Secretary