

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2024  
St. Mary Catholic Faith Community  
Hales Corners, WI

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Maureen Riemer, Caroline Schachtlie, Elisabeth Chojnacki, Brenda White, David Fritz, Gilbert Frenn, Joe Plassmeyer, Pilar Azmani, Janet Miller, Steven Rice, Clem Budny, Mel Hendrickson

Excused: Tammy DuBois, Jim Podewils

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Aaron led an opening prayer.

**Approval of Pastoral Council Minutes:** The [Pastoral Council Minutes 06/20/24](#) were approved.

**Liaison Reports:**

**Discipleship:**

- Looking to add new members. They will be doing nominations and discernment in fall

**Finance:**

- The new fiscal year is off to a good start.
- Working on closing the previous fiscal year
  - The festival did well but the hot weather on Sunday hurt the overall profit

**Human Concerns:**

- Circle of Love preparations will begin soon
- Looking at an overall calendar of asks to coordinate our many ministries

**Pastoral Care:**

- The four main ministries Anointing, Funeral, Holy Communion and Intercessory Prayer are functioning well
- Pastoral Care Commission is looking at a new software program to manage and track the ministries' communications
- Primary focus for fall is the Mass of Hope and Healing on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6PM with Archbishop Jerome ListECKI and the Archdiocesan offices.
- Mass of Remembrance is November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10AM. Invitations and preparations are beginning soon

**School Advisory:**

- Looking to meet more often
- Bruce Varick from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee school offices came to give an orientation of how a School Advisory Commission functions. It was a productive evening.

**SLAW :**

- No meeting over the summer

**Welcome and Introduction:**

- New and current members were introduced before discerning Liaison roles

**Office and Liaison Discernment:**

- Fr. Aaron explained the officer and liaisons roles then led the group in a prayerful discernment:
  - Chair – Jim Podewils
  - Vice Chair – Maureen Riemer
  - Secretary – Caroline Schachtlie
  - Deanery Rep – Elisabel Chojnacki
  - Discipleship – Pilar Azmani
  - Human Concerns – David Fritz
  - Pastoral Care – Gilbert Frenn & Janet Miller
  - School Advisory – Mel Hendrickson & Joe Plassmeyer
  - Finance Council – Brenda White
  - SLAW – Steve Rice

**Vision & Strategy:**

- Fr. Aaron shared what his vision is for the future
- Called & Gifted
  - A program through the Archdiocese to discern one's charisms. It is done through a one-day seminar, some one-on-one time with a trained facilitator and then experimenting with that charism.
  - A way to boost discipleship in the parish and give people knowledge and confidence in the gifts God has given them
  - Fr. Aaron requests Parish Staff, Pastoral Council, and Finance Council to participate
  - 12-18 months to get it up and running in the parish
  - Jeff Kacala, Director of Discipleship will be presenting at the next meeting
- Strategic Planning:
  - Fr. Aaron and Principal Linda Joyner think it would be good time to look at some strategic planning for the parish and school.
  - Currently looking at consultant options.

- This is a natural time to do this since our staff is settled, Fr. Aaron has been here three years and we're looking at what Fr. Aaron's first terms looks like

**Pictures and Bios**

- All members are asked to contact Anne Wycklendt to make sure their pictures and bios are submitted and current.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Magnify Wednesday nights at 6:30PM
- School Enrollment in the 390s
- Vatican II Awards – Dr. Mark Joerres Cathedral 7PM on 9/24
- Pet blessing October 5th 10AM
- Confirmation October 6th 11AM

**What are you Hearing?**

**Blessing:** The meeting closed with a blessing.

Submitted by: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Pastor