

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
06-11-26

St. Mary Catholic Faith Community  
Hales Corners, WI

**Present:** Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Clem Budny, Elisabel Chojnacki, Gilbert Frenn, Mary Beth Katorski, David Mikolainis, Jim Podewils, Brenda White

**Excused:** Tammy DuBois, Frank LaSusa, Joe Plassmeyer, Caroline Schachtlie

**Absent:** Tom Gaglione

**Opening Prayer:** Mary Beth led the group in prayer using a reflection from the Hallow app; reflection focused on the presence of Jesus with us in the storms of life.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes from 05-14-26 were approved. [Pastoral Council 05-14-26 Final.pdf](#)

**Liaison Reports:**

**Finance:**

- Offertory giving remains up over last year. It looks like the predicted deficit will be covered.
- Linda Joyner, School Principal, attended the meeting as a guest. She presented a growth plan related to the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) to provide services to even more students. The plan includes adding teaching and administrative resources to support the program. Periodic audits are part of the oversight of the SNSP and one is scheduled in the near future.
- Proxy requests have been submitted to the Archdiocese for the upcoming capital expenditures for the new sound system in the church (\$180k) and boiler replacement (\$170k). Both of these projects will be funded through the Love One Another campaign.

**Deanery:**

- Deanery did not meet in the past month.

**Pastoral Care:**

- Commission did not meet in the past month.

**Human Concerns:**

- Commission did not meet in the past month.

**Discipleship:**

- Commission did not meet in the past month.

**School Advisory (update provided by Fr. Aaron in Liaison absence):**

- The Committee met for an end of year celebration.
- Several potential new Committee members attended.
- There was talk regarding a potential update to the uniform policy.

**Spiritual Life & Worship/SLAW (update provided by Fr. Aaron in Liaison absence):**

- Commission did not meet in the past month.

**Pastor's Report:**

- On Sunday, June 14, Fr. Aaron will be away from the parish to emcee the Polish Fest Mass, with Archbishop Grob presiding.
- Magnify will take place on Wednesday, June 24; Willow G. will share her testimony. No Magnify in July.
- Steubenville Youth Conference will take place June 26-28. Fr. Aaron will be attending the conference with the group of teens and adult leaders from the parish. • There will be a 9am holiday Mass on Saturday, July 4.
- St. Mary will host a *Called and Gifted* workshop on Saturday, August 8. Council members who have not yet attended the workshop are encouraged to do so, as well participate in the follow-up interview which is an important part of the charism discernment process. Understanding one's charisms is a part of intentional discipleship.
- Proxy has been approved for sound system expenditure. Work will begin on June 15 and is expected to be completed within two weeks of that date. Daily Mass will be held in the Gathering Space. A temporary sound system will be put in place in the church for weekend Masses on June 20 -21. Fr. Aaron plans on doing a video message to the parish in advance of the start of the sound system work. His message will provide information about the sound system project, and express gratitude for support of the LOA campaign.
- Eight applications have come in so far for the Director of Discipleship position. After an initial phone interview with Fr. Aaron and an in-person interview with the Search Committee, three persons have been invited back for a second in-person interview. If additional applications are received, phone and in-person interviews will be scheduled as appropriate. There is a desire to keep the process moving while also being attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in selecting the right person. Fr. Aaron asked that Council members keep this process in their prayers.

**Other Business:****Walking Prayer:**

- Mary Beth shared how the Lord has been challenging her to expand her view of "parish" beyond the parish buildings to extend to the entire geographical area of the parish, and how to take Jesus into the area. One way she has done this was to take a walk in the

neighborhood directly adjacent to the church grounds, offering a prayer for the people in each house that she passed. She invited Council members to consider doing the same as they are walking or driving within the parish boundaries.

**Discernment of new Pastoral Council members – Fr. Aaron:**

- Fr. Aaron reminded members of the upcoming nomination and discernment process, and confirmed Officer involvement in contacting nominees.
- There will be five open spots to be filled during this year's Discernment process. An additional spot is open due to Pilar's resignation from Council in light of increased family priorities.
- Fr. Aaron asked all Council members to continue praying about parishioners whom they could nominate.
- Current Council members are welcome to participate in the Orientation meetings and Discernment evening.

**Parish Festival - Jim:**

- The Parish Festival is July 10-12. There are still many open volunteer shifts across all areas. Jim encouraged PC members to consider signing up for one or more volunteer shifts, and to encourage others to sign up as well.

**Strategic Pastoral Planning Update – Fr. Aaron:**

- Fr. Aaron is in the process of forming an Envisioning Team. This team of 10-15 people will work closely with the Steering Committee to understand and process the survey data, as well as start to write objectives and goals. This group will also work on formulating mission, vision, and values statements. The goal is for this team is to be comprised of parish members across all age groups, parish involvement, etc. Meetings will take place over the course of the summer.
- Once work on the parish side is completed there will be a combined review and consolidation of the parish and school plans. This step is anticipated to take place in late summer.

**Ministry Partner Evaluation - Jim:**

- No new information to share. Brenda will continue working on this evaluation with the representatives from the Human Concerns Commission.

**What Are You Hearing?**

- Clem shared that he has heard many positive comments about *Magnify* and that people hope that it will continue.

**Share Your Joy:**

- Fr. Aaron shared his appreciation for the Council members, with special gratitude to those coming off of Council. Particular thanks were offered to Jim for his tenure as Chairperson, and his help as Fr. Aaron became familiar with the parish and the workings of the Council and Commissions.

- Mary Beth shared her joy at reading of the school's Student Council offering small gifts in gratitude to neighbors most impacted by the daily car line and other school activities.

The meeting adjourned with a blessing from Fr. Aaron.

Minutes prepared by Mary Beth Katorski in the absence of Caroline Schachtlie, Secretary.