

ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL FEBRUARY 6, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Jackson at 7:00pm.

Members present: Dan Jackson, Chairman, Paul Baumgartner, Angee Clark-Hellon, Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Jan Gremaud, Kelly Houston, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Brenda Neumann, Joel Petry, Gail Wolff

Members absent: John Hopkins, Tom Mines, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by Fr. Kevin.

There was one correction to the January 2, 2025, Minutes. Under Old Business/Centennial Campaign and Survey Results, the target goal should be one million dollars. Motion was made by Angee Clark-Hellon and seconded by Joel Petry to accept the Minutes as corrected; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin has been involved in OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). In addition, he has been meeting with the parents of our St. John Neumann students. Requirements put into place a year ago went into effect last July first. Requirements regarding Mass attendance and service to the parish have seemed to work very well. We've had some liturgical minister training, and he sees that as ongoing for updates and new volunteers.

Regarding Centennial Campaign at last week's Finance Council meeting, Karen Simpson and Jim Sagovac volunteered to be co-chairs for the Centennial Campaign. Amanda is scheduling a zoom meeting for Friday, February 28, with two fundraising companies. Fr. Kevin brought up to the Finance Council, which they defer to the Pastoral Council, having to do with the mission component of the Centennial Campaign. Fr. Kevin had a zoom meeting with a person on the staff of Evangelical Catholic, located in Wisconsin. He received a recommendation from Eastern Illinois University on using Evangelical Catholic, "...they give you the tools and the support to really create a culture of living the joy of the gospel. You as the pastor have to set the energy. The discipleship training groups are amazing." He has people from their organization on the scene. They also do training by zoom which is at a lower cost. "Videos and materials are great. If folks in the parish buy in, just a small group from the parish could bring transformation; and hopefully, you would have small groups and one-on-ones happening throughout the parish..." We can do a basic level of training for about \$840/month for maybe two years, with the third-year cost dropping back significantly. This is a possible mission component for the Centennial Campaign.

Finally, Fr. Kevin distributed an article from the February 6, 2025, *Troy Times-Tribune*. He attended a meeting at Friedens UCC for Ministries Unlimited, which their Board meets three times a year. They were conferring with Collinsville Faith in Action. Fr. Kevin asked the Pastoral Council if anyone knew about the Troy Community Alliance. Brenda was aware of the organization. Ministries Unlimited recognizes it as viable. Dan added that he was aware of a program where we would give money that the police department would administer when someone who was homeless or in need came into town and the priest at the rectory would send them to the police department. Brenda recalled that all the churches had gotten together to address individuals who were going from church to church, and that this had been talked about early last summer. Fr. Kevin will be having lunch with Pastor Tim Harrison and learn more.

Written Monthly Reports: No questions on the monthly reports submitted for Bookkeeper, Office Manager, St. John Neumann, Faith Formation, Youth Ministry.

Under Faith Formation, Sister Linda Mary pointed out that there are several families, members of families and individuals who are interested in joining the church; and OCIA has a lot of webinars and information. Brenda and Sister Linda Mary have new books. If anyone wants to be part of a team and share their faith, let them or Fr. Kevin know. Fr. Kevin expressed a special need for Dismissal Ministers during Mass for the catechumens to take in the liturgy and reflect on it further. A discussion followed regarding the various aspects of the program and responsibilities of the OCIA teams.

Old Business

Centennial Campaign: Report given above by Fr. Kevin.

Rideshare Ministry: The parishioner who needed a ride to Mass is still unable to go to church because of some medical issues. We have received no other requests for rides. Gail is now visiting this parishioner on Mondays and reading to her. Dan mentioned that the Lions Club supports an organization at the Shrine called MindsEye. Their mission is to provide information to people who can't see well. They read the newspaper, ads, etc.; and Dan can get more information on that service.

Old Business (continued)

Pastoral Council Goals: Angee and Gail (Community Pillar) have been working on their particular goals. As part of their Community Pillar, they developed a Community Activity calendar for the parish. For February we will give provide cookies after the 4:00pm and 10:30am Masses on Donut Sunday weekend. March 2 at 4:00pm is the St. Jerome Parish Mardi Gras (with help from the Youth Group). Andy Schwierjohn and Brenda are coordinating the event. No event is scheduled in April due to Lent, so we really need to promote the Stations of the Cross and get more people involved through promotion in the Bulletin. May will be Bingo in St. Joseph's Hall 2:00-4:00pm on a Sunday. We will ask various groups to donate prizes. June has no activity planned as of now. July 13 and 14 we will have an ice cream party in the side parking lot after each Mass. In August, school starts. September is Mass on the Grass. Gail and Angee discussed the pros and cons of various locations at the Tri-Township Park. Dan suggested holding Mass on the Grass on the church property. The idea was very well received. St. Joseph's Hall could be used in case of rain. Angee solicited assistance from Pastoral Council. October is Trunk or Treat. On Donut Sunday, November 16 at noon after 10:30am Mass, we would have a parish brunch/potluck in St. Joseph's Hall to start the holidays. Pastoral Council would provide the basics—eggs, hamburgers, sausage, etc.

Angee reported on progress of developing a Welcome Committee. Post in the Bulletin end of February news about the new Welcome Committee, and those interested in helping can contact the office. We will concentrate on presenting this concept to St. Ann's and Knights of Columbus to begin with. We will meet with interested parishioners after Easter, and the Welcome Committee will begin May 5. We are considering following the parishioners for three months or longer if necessary. A new parish directory is needed. We can start out with a dozen until more can be mass produced. Angee wants to obtain cloth bags containing directories and laminated cards with contact information on key individuals and committees, rosary cards and rosaries from St. Ann's, and anything else that would be useful.

Jan (Worship & Evangelization Pillars) asked about holding another speaker series per request by a member of her ARISE group. The Council discussed the success of past speaker series both at St. Jerome and St. James parishes. Some were soup and salad events with various speakers from different faiths, converts to Catholicism, St. Jerome clergy, religious, missionaries and staff, etc., that filled St. Joseph's Hall. Past successful parish missions held several nights in a row were also discussed. Jan will investigate mission options as her preferred endeavor. Dan agreed these would be Community Pillar events to include people outside the parish. Jan reminded the group that the Eucharist Miracles display is coming to the KC Hall in Blackjack for several dates in March. (Volunteers needed.)

Grief Ministry: Angee reported that three or four people are interested, with the plan to start with eight volunteers. She needs to set up some guidelines and asked for any help she can get. It was suggested that various area churches offer grief counseling and perhaps we can get more information from them. Fr. Kevin mentioned the Stephen Series that included keeping in touch with the bereaved person and mailing things to them. Both Jan and Angee mentioned how important it was to them personally to have received a sympathy card from the parish when they lost loved ones.

New Business

St. Joseph Hall Rental: No further progress. Fr. Kevin confirmed that the previous request for the hall had been granted and the hall reserved, but the parishioners for some reason chose another location for their event. Only parishioners can rent the hall and only when it is available. There would be no alcohol or smoking allowed. The kitchen or supplies could not be used. A nominal charge would cover cleaning the hall and repositioning the walls. Dan will develop the rental guidelines by the April meeting.

Pulse of the Parish

Marquee/Statue of Mary Lights: Jan brought up the lights being out since the old parish office building was sold and the lights connected to it were disconnected. Running a trench for new wiring is very expensive. Solar night not work due to the shaded areas. Options are being considered.

There being no further business, Fr. Kevin offered the closing Prayer; and the meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Next meeting scheduled Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder