

**Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Council Meeting
6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

Opening Prayer – Fr. Louis Nelen

Call to Order – Chandra Prasad, President

Roll Call – Darlene Kliethermes

Present: Fr. Louis Nelen, Gina Bailey, Jon Browning, Aaron Hildreth, Ann Kampeter, Melanie Lanigan, Chandra Prasad, Morgan Trimble, and Mike Wilson.

Absent: Jennifer Case

Minutes of October 19, 2021 Meeting Reviewed – Jon Browning made a motion to approve the minutes and Aaron Hildreth seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Louis Nelen

- **Cathedral Renovation**
- Started Monday of last week through this weekend, the Cathedral is now empty. That didn't happen without a few issues. The Imperial Pew crew did not show up on Monday to dismantle the pews. There was confusion on their end with calendaring. We called them and they indicated they would not be able to get a crew from Texas to Missouri until Thursday. That obviously was not going to work with Sircal wanting in the following Monday. We were able to get Matt Bridges and his crew along with Justin Duncan and his crew to dismantle the pews, label each pew and all its parts, wrap and move them to the mall. Sircal is moving in this week and I believe Meyer Electric is also getting setup. The window guys are almost complete and out of here.
- We are hoping to be back in the undercroft by mid-November and if all goes well be back in the Cathedral for dedication in late January 2023.
- There is a problem we will have to figure out how to deal with in just a few weeks. We will lose access to the front driveway of the Cathedral. Jake Akin is working on an alternative plan for drop-off and pick-up at school. Congestion is a big factor. One idea was to stagger start and dismissal times. We are considering all possibilities at this point.

Master Plan

- Most everyone preferred option #1 and not option #2. I will have the architects condense it down to option #1 and then present it to our parishioners to voice what they do or do not like about the plan. This hasn't been done yet just because we have been so busy trying to get the renovation started.
- The marble for the floors will arrive next week. We have to make arrangements with Sircal to have that stored on-site. We gave permission for them to rent a pod to store it in. There are 24 containers with a weight of almost 15 metric tons.

Stewardship

- We were asked by the diocese to provide information on how many people had returned their fully completed packets. For all the packets which included school and non-school families only about 33% of the packets have been returned. We have tried to reach out by email and by calling people. At some point we just have to make them inactive.
- For school families there are 232 school families that are catholic and around 27 that are tuition families. We are missing 52 packets.
- We intend to send letters to those we still have no information from and give a deadline of March 1st to hear back from them before we just make them inactive. If a parishioner is made inactive, they can't come ask the pastor to sign a sponsor form for Baptism or God-parent form for Confirmation. You must be an active parishioner to do these things.

Foundation

We have been in discussions recently, and in order for the parish to not have to tithe on gifts from the Foundation, the Foundation would have to deposit their funds with the diocese. At this time, we are not sure how the Foundation Board will vote on that. If they decide not to do that then it must be understood that the Parish will have to pay 10% for any gift they give us. For clarification, we are not required to tithe on bequests or money that goes directly into the diocesan savings fund. The Foundation is currently both civilly and canonically independent of parish control. We are waiting to see how they want to move forward.

Cathedral School Report –by Gina Bailey - See written report.

Helias Advisory Board Report – No report.

Youth/Faith Formation Report – No report.

Volunteer Coordinator Report – See written report.

Stewardship Committee Report – See written report.

Old Business –

- **Parish Pastoral Plan**
- Since the last good October count which would have been 2019, our deanery shows a 40% decline in attendance. Across the entire diocese it shows about a 25% decline. Because of this the diocese has decided they need to alter their pastoral plan. The next pastoral deanery meeting which will be held via zoom we think, they will invite not just parish council presidents but principals and the presidents of school advisory council and finance council. I think they will have discussions about what they intend to do to adjust the plans of the diocese since attendance is dropping.
- It is interesting that our attendance at Mass is down but the enrollment in Catholic schools is up.
- **Mass in the Gym**
- The setup and take down of the chairs went very well.
- Coach decided the tarps would not be needed since we got new chairs.
- It was decided we need to purchase additional chairs.
- We actually received very good feedback from some of our parishioners that they were pleasantly surprised with what we were able to do in the gym and felt like they actually went to church and felt dignified.
- For clarification the proper protocol is when you do not have kneelers you are to remain standing. After communion it is proper and best in our situation to just sit down.

New Business –

- **Parish By-Laws**
- Discussion about needed changes to the By-Laws. Jon Browning will present a new draft based on the discussions and the submission of what is expected by Canon Law.
- All agreed we need a diverse group on Parish Council to represent the interests of all parishioners.

Closing prayer – Fr. Nelen

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 6:00 P.M. in the Parish Office

Respectfully submitted: Darlene Kliethermes



Chandra Prasad, President

Date: _____

2/15/22