

# Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

**October 11, 2021**

Present In Person: Fr. Cyrus (Pastor), Joe Malaterra, John LoRusso, Bill Macnamara, Michael O'Loughlin, Cathy Romano. Zoom Michelle Harding, Michelle Hopson, Juany Fumai, Gracemary Avitabile Mori Han-Lemus, Tom Bonaventura.

Absent: Thomas Devine

- **Fr. Cyrus**: Opened the meeting with a prayer.

- The minutes from the last meeting were accepted by Bill Macnamara and seconded by Tom Bonaventura.

- **Fr. Cyrus**: Outlined the two training sessions for new global synod Ambassadors Orientation which will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup>. at St. Francis Church in Weston, CT: Michele Harding, Mary Welch-Leman, Craig Wile, Michael Rafferty are our representatives.

**The Paradisus Dei Training** : (Invitation to Ministry for Young Families). Father will invite young families to a meeting on October 27, at 7:00pm at St John Church in Darien.

**Father Cyrus**: also spoke about another initiative the bishop wants to implement, Young Catholic Professionals along with older professionals to act as board members.

**Father Cyrus**: is inviting the parish to see the newly renovated McGrath Hall after all the Masses on the weekend of October 16, 17.

**John LoRusso and Juany Fumai**: spoke on how we are all evangelizers in those we meet in our daily life.

**Father Cyrus**: spoke about the Family Mass at 9am. We will begin after the first of the year when the Mass schedule changes to 7:30, 9, and 11 on Sunday mornings. Coffee and donuts will follow in the hall every Sunday. This is an effort to build community.

**Father Cyrus**: is having a Christmas party on December 18, in the school gym for all staff and volunteers.

**Bill Macnamara**: reported on the Knights charitable events: Coat drive, food collection, Night on the Sound, serving at Merton House. The Knights serve many in our community. Bill also said the Knights of Columbus will donate a beautiful stone Gaelic Cross to be put over the burial place of Father Riley who is buried outside in front of the church. This will be a beautiful tribute to him who was instrumental in the building of our church. The Knights of Columbus also wish to start a contemplative prayer group.

**Gracemary Avitabile**: spoke about praying during Advent and again in Lent for vocations, and for our seminarians.

**Father Cyrus**: will remember Jean Donovan who grew up in Westport and a member of Assumption. Jean was a lay missionary and killed in El Salvador during an uprising, December 1980. She will be remembered at all Masses, and a banner in her honor will be displayed outside on the church.

**Cathy Romano** : Spoke about the All Souls Mass which will be held November 2, at 7:00pm. The families of the deceased this past year will be invited to Mass, given a rose and candle in remembrance. A reception will follow. Cathy also spoke of a new way we will celebrate the Advent and upcoming Christmas time. This year we will have a Christmas Event Weekend featuring a boutique and bake sale in the hall, Saturday and Sunday mornings and Sunday evening (December 5, after the 5:00pm Mass). The Parish will gather outside for the lighting of Christmas Trees, Blessing of the Crèche, a light supper, music, a visit from Santa, and more. The entire parish is invited.

Father ended the meeting with prayer and Joe Malaterra closed the meeting. Next meeting will be held on November 8, 2021 at 7:00pm in McGrath Hall in person and via Zoom.

Respectively submitted

Cathy Romano, Council Secretary