

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting April 17, 2023

Present: Fr. Cyrus (Pastor), Fr. Yi, Jim Meehan (Deacon), Gracemary Avitabile, Thomas Devine. Cathy Romano. Michelle Harding, Juany Fumai, Tom Bonaventura., John LoRusso, Matt Fair

Absent, Michelle Hopson, Bill Macnamara, Jamie Malaterra, Mark Rubino

Deacon Jim: Opened the meeting with a prayer.

- The minutes from the last meeting were accepted by Michele Harding and seconded by Tom Devine.

Fr. Cyrus: spoke about the Parish Catechetical Leader and Renewal. Most of our Catechists, Eucharist Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers attended the talks by Bishop Caggiano. The responses were very positive.

Fr. Cyrus asked Juany Fumai and Fr. Yi to give a report on how Altar Serving is going. Juany said it is very hard to get children to join this ministry. There are a lot of reasons why they do not want to serve as in the past. A lot of ideas were suggested as to how to get more servers and one was to have ongoing training instead of two times a year. This would accommodate children's schedules. Also Cathy suggested we use our EMHC to serve since we do not schedule them as frequently since we do not have the cup at communion. Jim said he would draft a letter inviting those who wish to be trained and scheduled.

Fr. Cyrus – as part of the 150th year celebration, he and a committee are looking over plans for the best way to implement the renovation/addition of the back of the outside of the church. As discussed at previous meetings this would be an enclosed addition to be used as a gathering space, which would also have access to bathrooms and easier access to the church.

Cathy Romano – gave an update of Religious Ed. First Eucharist is on May 7, at the regular 9 and 11am Masses. Confirmation is on May 21 at 1 & 3pm. We applied for a grant from Foundations in Faith which is a grant program of the diocese for \$9,800 to renovate four small classrooms in the school into one large room. The grant committee decides who gets the grants late June. If we do receive the grant we will complete the project, if not it will not be done. Registration for the fall will begin in May.

Tom Bonaventura: At our last Parish Council meeting it was suggested that a committee be formed to look into the problem of families not coming to Mass due to sport schedules. The committee met and Tom invited three dads to come and tell us how they do or do not juggle sports and Mass. Some of the feedback was their teen children were getting peer pressure about going to church, altar serving and faith formation. This has caused these teens to drop out. The parents stated that they didn't want to force their kids to go to Mass. They even said that it was hard to get their spouses to go. This made it even harder for mass attendance.

Tom invited others to a dinner in the hall to continue the conversation but due to conflicting schedules it had to be postponed to a later date. Tom will continue to pursue this.

- **Fr Cyrus:** adjourned the meeting with prayer.

- **Next Parish Council Meeting:** June 12, at 7:00pm in McGrath Hall.

Respectively Submitted,

Cathy Romano, Council Secretary