

St. Mark Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes for 4/13/24

Introduction

Meeting held Saturday, April 13, 2024, led by Chair Dirk Bartram.

Meeting was held in person.

Present: Fr. Maurer, Dirk Bartram, Gina Olsen, Doug Park, Patsy Riley, Paul Sundberg

Absent: Mary Ann Draye

Opening Prayer: Prayer led by Father Maurer.

Partners in the Gospel

- I. New priests: Council discussed announcement last week of upcoming change in priest leadership, and parishioner reactions. Overall, about 51% of priests/vicars are remaining in their current assignments. Father expects bulk of collaboration with new priest and vicar, Fr. Cody Ross and Fr. Anthony Davis, to begin no earlier than July.
- II. Inter-parish communication: Dirk reported from informal meeting with St. Matthew pastoral council chair. Parishioners concerned about losing their own parish identity in merger. Council agreed St. Mark should seek to collaborate openly and with awareness to St. Matthew's concerns. Dirk and Gina plan to meet with council chairs again now that priests have been announced.

School Commission Report

- I. Paul reported from recent school commission meetings. Tuition increase put in place. School is expecting an increase in enrollment from 109 to 131. Some teacher turnover will once again take place. Cell phone/smart watch ban will be put in place next school year.
- II. Father shared announcement from school newsletter the cancer diagnosis of principal Kathy Keck. Council reflected on what this will mean for school in near/far future.

Ministry Fair

- I. Paul reported 60% participation from ministries/activities. Procedure will be ambo speech at end of Mass, followed by booths set up in Sullivan Hall. Council noted current lack of faith formation representation, identified possible representatives. Dirk volunteered to prepare information on pastoral council to share.
- II. Gina reviewed updates to ambo speech with council. Council gave positive feedback.

Finances

- I. Post-Easter collection has left parish at \$55,068 deficit. Dirk suggested contacting Marcia for more information from finance council.
- II. Father reported finance council is concerned about appealing to parish with ACA upcoming. He is predicting a continuation of less giving than recent years based on Partners in the Gospel instability. He has decided not to do an additional stewardship appeal in light of the ACA.

Parties

- I. Goodbye parties: Father Maurer's goodbye parties will be held after Masses the weekend of June 29th/30th. Also, Father's 15th anniversary is June 13th. Council discussed ways ministry groups can collaborate to celebrate Father as he leaves.
- II. Welcome parties: Gina and Dirk will discuss with St. Matthew chairs when/how to celebrate Fr. Ross and Fr. Davis when they arrive in July.

Closing

The meeting was closed with prayer by Dirk Bartram.

Adjournment Time: 12:00 PM

Next Meeting: May 18, 2024 at 1:00 PM