

Minutes for St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council February 6, 2024 meeting

Present: Fr. Max Behna, Mary Kienstra, Anne Lysaught, Kelly Metzger, Lise Nauman, Jennifer Nolan, Steve Novotny, Bob Presnak (livestream), John Runger (livestream)

Absent: None

The meeting opened at 7:05 pm with a prayer led by Fr. Max Behna.

Steve thanked the council for helping with the Volunteer Appreciation dinner.

January Meeting Minutes

The recording secretary, Anna, will make edits suggested by Jennifer and Bob.

President's Report

The Men's Club has a dinner at the end of the month.

Ash Wednesday is February 14.

Clarity Questions

Fr. Max led the council in reviewing the clarity questions from Amazing Parish, such as why we exist as a parish (to help people experience new life in Christ). These are described in more detail in the previous minutes.

Pastor's Report

Appreciation Dinner

The dinner went very well, with positive feedback and a positive spirit.

This will be discussed more later.

Tabernacle update

Fr. Max would like advice on next steps, which will be discussed more later.

One future area where council help may be needed is in communicating initiatives.

Facilities

Matthew Ernst (business manager), Chris Holstein (facilities manager) and Fr. Max met to oversee a priority plan for facilities, which includes updates for a growing parish.

Rally Cry

The goal is to finalize the next rally cry (area of focus for staff, deacons and other leadership personnel) in March. The anticipated time frame for it is the next 6-8 months.

Finance Committee

There is a need for new members on the finance committee due to retirements. The goal would be to recruit 3-4 people.

Discussion included:

- The possibility of recruiting finance committee members at the same time that at-large pastoral council members are included
- Whether there is a charter stipulating the number of people on the committee (no)
- Adding a mission-driven job description for recruitment, with feedback from Sue Schroeder and Matthew Ernst
- The possibility of creating a finance council in the future and having one of the members sit on the pastoral council as a representative. The council is supportive of this.

Benches in the Narthex

Many people are using the new benches in the narthex and there is a fourth one on the way. There was brief discussion on possibly mounting benches. Fr. Max will check with Chris Holstein on whether there is anything in the fire code about this.

Alpha Update

Alpha preparations are going very well. The training sessions have been very well-received, and there are 6 groups with a total of 63-64 people have signed up. Kelly Reznicek has started a waiting list. One encouraging thing is that Alpha is drawing people who are new to parish events to sign up.

Kelly R. asked Steve if council members can volunteer for greeting duties; there would need to be 3 council members each week for the first 3 weeks. One possibility is also recommending other parishioners who could be good at greeting.

There is the possibility of pastoral council members attending a session and having a small table to themselves.

10 minute break

Tabernacle

Fr. Max shared concept art from Regali on what the tabernacle could look like, and there was discussion on communicating the addition of a tabernacle to parishioners. Fr. Max would like pastoral council members to be present on the day this is communicated (to be decided). The goal would be for members to get a pulse on how the announcement is received by parishioners. An action item is for Fr. Max to let council members know about logistics such as which Masses they should go to.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

There were approximately 194 attendees, plus 17 more who signed up and didn't attend (last year, about 170 people came, out of 194 people who signed up). RSVPs were fluid.

Dinner was catered by Sharko's and cost \$5450 (including payments and the value of donated items). This included:

- \$4850 from parish to Sharko's plus a tip for staff
- \$600 worth of donated items
- \$300 worth of alcohol donated by Men's Club

There were 270 volunteer hours for the event, including setup and preparations the week before, and there were always people available to help whenever Lise needed it.

The council discussed feedback from attendees (positive overall) and observations that they made. Highlights were

- People liked assigned seats. Having 9 people per table also went well.
- People had a hard time finding tables; possible solutions for next year include having bigger numbers and ordering them more sequentially.
- Many people brought their own bottle.
- Sharko's did a wonderful job; the food was warm, the management team was impressive, and there was an onsite chef who was personable and went to each table answering questions about food.
- Desire for more gluten-free options.
- Having an appreciation-focused Mass before the dinner next year to increase the number of people going from Mass to dinner, and crafting the invitation to reflect that. There could be a blessing for volunteers after the 5 pm Mass.
- Sending thank you notes to people who helped set up and run the dinner
 - Lise will send thank you notes to the teens.
 - Steve will send collective thank you notes to the band and the Men's Club
 - Kelly M. will send thank you notes to Kathy O'Rourke, Anne Schwartz and Collette Presnak
 - Mary will write volunteers who did name tags (John and his wife).

- Jennifer will write Julie Duffin, Millie Gredlics and Mary Sears.

Lise will put together a brief survey and email Julie Duffin, the parish communications director.

Ministry Rollout Feedback

Steve and Lise have discussed the rollout of the mission and vision to ministries and will talk to Fr. Max about it offline. Mary will take minutes if there is another meeting to discuss it.

There was discussion about the timing of the rollout. Steve and Lise would like the rest of the council to review the proposed ministry rollout schedule and provide feedback, especially on whether it makes sense and how it could be made shorter.

Charitable Contributions Committee

The pastoral council will release funds to the CCC for the rest of the year.

Closing

Fr. Max led the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.