

Pastoral Council Meeting Final Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Room C-103 7:00 pm

1. Prayer: Greg Ulses
2. Formation: Greg Ulses
3. Review Minutes: Motion to approve February minutes made, seconded, and passed.
4. School Update Gabriela Parks for Kimberly Parker
 - a. As of March 19, the overall enrollment for next year is down. Pre Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1, 2, 5, 6 have openings. All other classes have 47 students enrolled. Working on getting more.
 - b. Contracts for 2024-25 for the teachers have been sent out this week. The Director of Extended Day has recently departed; the other staff have maintained operations after the departure.
 - c. St. Mark won the Porto Charities' 2nd Advocacy Awards for Outstanding School. The grant that comes with the award has not yet been allocated to a specific cause. This is the reason for the film crew around the grounds. The formal ceremony to present the award is on April 20 at Bishop Ireton in Alexandria.
 - d. Lion Laps underway
 - e. Jodee Blanco to speak to the teachers and students about bullying. Thanks PTPO!
 - f. Travis Manion to speak to middle school on character development
 - g. The Birthday Banquet was a great success
5. PTPO Update

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.

- a. All School Birthday (on Ms. Parker's birthday) helped celebrate everybody's birthday. Students with summer birthdays finally get recognized!
- b. The used uniform sale underway
- c. Dining for Dollars: multiple days raised funds. Next is April 11 at Taco Rock in the Oakton Shopping Center.
- d. Friday - class pictures
- e. Saturday - roller skate night in Reston fundraiser
- f. Lion Laps is underway
- g. April 21: Newcomers Lunch: Can new school families attend? They should have been invited. Check with Sue Heard.
- h. April 25: International Night at the school

6. Finance Sandy Gollogly

- a. Parking Lot needs replacement. We can't just keep repairing the lot. Quote for a total repaving from four years ago was for more than \$400K; this needs to be updated. Potential plan to pay for it may require funding over a three year horizon? Alternative to have a special fundraiser? It cannot be a Capital Campaign as there is a moratorium on these during the Dioscean Capital Campaign. The Dioscean Campaign is the first since 2002 and is aimed for charitable works. We can encourage increased offerings, including the green envelopes earmarked for capital improvements.

- b. The lower level bathroom renovations are to start after Easter.
- c. There is a letter to all commissions to start budgeting for fiscal year 2025, to strengthen and grow the St. Mark community.

7. Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion):

- a. Community Service: Theresa Croton. No Additions, No Questions
- b. Religious Education: Andrea Kramer. No Additions, No Questions
 - i. Postcards for Lent/Easter well received
- c. Community Growth: Betsy Zolper
 - i. Curcio added
 - ii. La Cirque de Francia: Tuesday coffee (10-11?) talking in French
 - iii. The Men's Group is healthy (up to 20 have shown up, with 10 regulars). Open to all.
Meeting time allows for access to Confession.
- d. Worship: Brendan Fitzgibbon for Pam Burke. Nothing to report
- e. Youth: Sarah Kirk
 - i. Very active, with eight work campers (up from three). BINGO night fundraiser made \$1000.
 - ii. CYO spring season (volleyball, track and field) starting soon
 - iii. Scouts working well: Mulching (690 bags around the parish)

8. Old Business:

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- a. Roster for Greeters for Easter Masses: sign-up sheet being passed around.

9. New Business:

- a. Confirmation (Brendan Fitzgibbons)

- i. Wonderful service with Bishop Burbidge
- ii. Recommendation: in lead up to Confirmation, going through the process some things felt forced - can we provide some flexibility in requirements? Too much box checking; want to be inspired, not an obligation. 3 people turned into 15 to do the stations of the cross; it felt like some last second. Problems with engagement and prioritization, relevance. “Sanctioned” experiences vs non-sanctioned volunteering events, allow multiple options to ease load on Joe and Sarah. Use of time efficiently.

- b. Greeters for Palm Sunday Masses

- c. April 27 - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Betsy offered to coordinate PC volunteers. Sign-up sheet circulated. Please RSVP if you are attending dinner.
- d. Email Sue if coming to Newcomers Luncheon on April 21.
- e. Reminder: we need to canvas for a new Fall Festival coordinator(s). We have a strong foundation with planning documentation, binders, etc. The PTPO is ready to help, but not lead. Scheduled for September 22, 2024. Reminder: Put the call for a coordinator in the bulletin (Greg will follow-up with Crystal). PTPO unanimously approved another \$5K donation to support event.

10. Eyes and Ears

- a. Why is the pilgrimage not in bulletin? Happening June 22. Now an inside event.
- b. When is Father Pat's reception? May 5 after the 11:00 Mass. It is an informal reception celebrating his 50th anniversary of priesthood Ordination.
- c. Button for the handicapped door by the Sanctuary is broken.
- d. Stone blocks by Jesus: They were used as the base for the Holy Family Sculpture but should be moved.
- e. Palm Sunday: Procession only at 11:00 Mass

11. Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Meeting ends 8:21 pm

Next Meeting: April 18, 2024 C-103 7:00 pm