

**Saint Joseph the Workman Cathedral
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
October 10, 2023
Minutes**

The meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m. by Msgr. Gilles with a prayer.

Members Present: Kevin Decker, Nick Harding, Lauren Harding, Mari Erickson, Betty Tauscher, Nancy Rose, Tammy Becker, Chuck Whalen, Olivia Knapik, Mike Knapik, Msgr. Gilles and Lynne Ostervich.

Absent: Joseph Nduka and Deacon Tom Skemp

Chairman Kevin Decker proceeded with the agenda.

The minutes from the August 8, 2023 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Update on Undercroft Kitchen

Kevin Decker reported that recently, he and a small group of volunteers started to reorganize the kitchen. The back storage room was overhauled and unusable items were thrown or given away. Shelves were labeled. All drawers and cupboards in the kitchen were gone through and also purged. A short list of items needed was approved for purchase by Msgr. Gilles. This is just a start. Msgr., Nancy Rose, and Kevin will be looking at items including linens, china, and chargers to possibly purchase. This will make nice dinners possible without having to rent such things. The heavier large equipment is antiquated. Msgr. needs to consult with professionals regarding what needs to be done to update the equipment and improve the general layout of the kitchen. This will probably be a 2024/2025 project. A policy on the use of the kitchen will also be created and enforced in order to maintain cleanliness and care of any improvements made.

Nominees for Parish Pastoral Council Election

Eight parishioners have accepted nomination for election to fill four positions on the Pastoral Council. Haley McMullen has volunteered to hold interviews either face to face or by phone with each of the nominees. Five questions touching on the candidate's parish life and other interests outside of Cathedral were formulated. The questions will be emailed out to the nominees before the interviews. Elections will be held prior to Thanksgiving.

Structure and Relationship of Committees in Relationship to the General Life of the Parish

Msgr. Gilles thanked the members of Team Renewal for all they have done to help him and Cathedral Parish. Team Renewal's role has served its purpose and has now been discontinued.

New Business:

2024: A Look at the Four Standing Committees of the Pastoral Council

Education: We need someone to step up as leader of this committee. RCIA, Confirmation, Baptismal prep and more is included in this committee.

Social Concerns: In the past WAFER collections, Jail Ministry, Mittens for the Manger and more was include under this committee.

Family Life: Lauren Harding and Olivia Knapik will be co-leaders of this committee. The current project they are working on is starting up Elizabeth Ministries here at Cathedral.

Sacred Worship: This committee is active and doing very well.

Our Parish is growing. in 2024 we can help build up these committees and expand the guiding principles under which we operate. The four standing committees can help us achieve our Mission and Vision Statements. Discussion was held on past projects. Msgr. suggested creating four working groups.

RCIA and Growing Our Parish

This year we have 21 RCIA candidates along with 5 children and 5 auditors attending classes. The programs are held on Monday mornings and Tuesday evenings for the RCIA candidates. It was discussed that the candidates need to begin coming to Mass and establishing relationships with other parishioners. We need to welcome them to the parish and encourage them to get involved in social events and other groups within the parish.

Catholic Social Media, PR and Communications Event at the La Crescent Convention Center and Flock Notes

Erik Archer is involved in Diocesan Social Communication, Public Relations and Catholic Life Magazine with a goal to make priests and parish jobs easier with computer usage. On October 19th a Communications Event will be held at the LaCrescent Convention Center. Msgr. Gilles, Kevin, and Erik Archer will attend. A speaker will present a talk on "How we get our story and our message out to people". Msgr. and Kevin hope to get suggestions on how we can get our message out and better communicate with the parishioners consistently. The idea of branding was discussed with suggestions of magnets, clothing, coffee mugs, social media, signs, and parish colors. Flock Notes is a census program/tool for communication.

Catholic Charities Warming Center Cathedral Sponsored Meal Prep

Cathedral will help by preparing a meal on two Mondays per month. One group has signed up so far. Three to seven people are needed for each Monday. The meal will be prepared either at Cathedral or however the group decides and they will also help serve at the Warming Center 6:30-8:30 p.m. The number of people served will be around 35. This is something we can provide for the homeless population while building human relationships and actually doing something helpful.

Lenten Stations of the Cross; and Soup Suppers

Msgr. Gilles is planning on re-explaining the meaning of the Stations of the Cross in November. We will have Stations of the Cross with a soup supper during the Lenten Season. Stations will be held on Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m. with a soup supper to follow. Soup will be served in the Gathering Area and will be provided by volunteer parishioners who can bring a soup in a crockpot.

Our Mission Statement

Our informal Mission Statement is To follow Christ who is the way of Encounter and Engagement seeking to Build the Kingdom of God in our midst! But what is Cathedral's specialty? We need to be guided through this in a somewhat formal manner.

Future Pictorial Directory

Maybe in 2024/2025 we can investigate what this project would take to be successful and discuss the pros and cons of a directory.

Committee Reports:

Finance Council

Our weekly contributions are down a bit compared to last year when we had some large donations. The year-end statement was published in the bulletin. The Bishop's Report has been filed for this year. We are beautifying the parking lot and getting rid of concrete barriers. There is an ongoing discussion of whether to move Cathedral's endowment(s) to the Catholic Foundation of Western Wisconsin which was formed two years ago or to keep it separate. The Beacon of Light picnic raised a net amount of \$15,000 from donations and raffles.

Family Life (submitted by Lauren Harding)

The Family Life Committee met on September 26. A large portion of our conversation centered on Elizabeth Ministries - we had acquired a starter kit and reviewed the contents while discussing potential avenues to build it at our parish:

- Trainings are held for those who would like to participate, once interest is established.
- A Pastoral Care Guide can be purchased (separate from the starter kit).
- We can acquire more materials that suit our parish needs, once determined.
- A place to start - prayer intention cards.
- We would like to find out if there are additional parishes participating in the La Crosse area.
- A memorial Mass for Miscarriages/the Unborn would be of interest - including hospitality, candles/roses - will research if any area parishes have done so.
- Elevator pitch created to share with Pastoral Council about the program/benefits(Complete Report attached)

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

The meeting was closed at 7:00 p.m. by Kevin Decker with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Ostervich