

**Saint Joseph the Workman Cathedral  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
December 12, 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, Joseph Nduka, Deacon Tom Skemp, Msgr. Gilles and Lynne Ostervich.

Chairman Kevin Decker proceeded with the agenda.

The minutes from the October 10, 2023 meeting were approved.

**Old Business:**

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

Education: A Couple of people are thinking about joining this committee. Things are moving in the right direction.

Social Concerns: We have three volunteers to serve on this committee. They are helping with the Warming Center Project.

Family Life: The current project they are working on is starting up Elizabeth Ministries here at Cathedral and also Souparama.

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

**Catholic Social Media provided by the Diocese**

Catholic Social Media provided free of charge from the Diocese will be implemented at Cathedral. Jackie Craig will be the administrator. This is a more sophisticated way of effectively communicating with parishioners. This will be implemented more in the new year.

**Catholic Charities Warming Center Cathedral Sponsored Meal Prep**

We have been helping with meals for the Warming Center twice a month. We have one date in February, two in March, and two in April that need to be filled.

**Our Mission Statement**

With our new Pastoral Council members joining us in February 2024, this will be a good time to address our mission statement. A mission statement is important as it states goals and provides guiding principles. We will come together as a Pastoral Council to work on a mission statement and then have someone on a professional level lead us. Msgr. Gilles is in the process of contacting a gentleman from Viterbo that has been recommended.

**Update on Parish Pastoral Council Elections Process**

The ballots are out and will be available next weekend as well. The ballots are due to be turned in by Tuesday, December 19th. The newly elected members will be seated at the February 13, 2024 meeting. We are following the protocol of 1/3 newly elected members and 2/3 current members.

### **Future Pictorial Directory**

Msgr. Gilles will form a three person ad hoc committee to look into the best way to proceed with a pictorial directory. The purpose of the directory will be for parishioners to become more easily acquainted with others in the parish. A directory of just pictures with names was suggested. Each parish family would be given a directory.

### **New Business:**

#### **The Next Right Thing for Cathedral Parish**

Physical projects have been our focus. The next right thing should be on a spiritual level. Ideas are needed. Should we ask all parishioners for their input? We can send out an email blast asking for suggestions or possibly send out a survey monkey. What does Rome say about the focus for this year? Some Bishops are asking parishes to review the result of the Synod and discuss it. Msgr. Gilles suggested that direction from our Bishop would be needed if the parish was to do this.

#### **New Representative to the Aquinas Catholic Schools Education Commission**

Zach Gander volunteered to be on the Catholic Education Committee of the parish.

#### **Renewed Outreach for Homebound Ministry**

The parish is sending out a letter to everyone of a certain age and status asking if they need anything such as a visit. Are they able to get to Mass? Kevin will then follow up with a phone call to make sure that our parishioners are taken care of.

#### **A Look at Front Door Ministry**

A lengthy discussion was held on the role of Cathedral's Front Door Ministry and the St. Lawrence Ministry offered by Catholic Charities. The goal is not to duplicate help offered to people in need but to collaborate in an effective manner. Deacon Skemp offers help with bus tokens, payment of utilities, fuel cards and the like. Certain criteria must be met for financial assistance. Catholic Charities also helps those in need and strives to set up a long term plan so people can eventually support themselves. 60% of the people seen by Cathedral and Catholic Charities come to both places for help. We need to make sure there is no duplication. The problem is bigger than what Cathedral Front Door Ministry and Catholic Charities can solve. More discussion will be held at the February meeting.

#### **Update on the 2023-2024 Diocesan Annual Appeal**

Over 50% of our goal has been met. Msgr. Gilles will give another soft pitch and he is very optimistic that we will have a successful appeal.

#### **Update on the New Event/Garage Building**

The garage building could be finished by mid February or mid March.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Finance Council**

Our operating funds are down approximately \$20,000 from this time last year. We are paying all of our bills. The Finance Council looked at the Endowment Trust and is confirming the amount that may be used by Cathedral each year.

### **PCCW**

PCCW's last meeting was held Nov.8th, 2023. The main discussion was centered around the upcoming Christmas bazaar and bake sale. The bazaar was held Dec, 2nd and was very successful. Raffle items were still in play until Dec. 10th, with winners being announced after the 10:00 Mass. One member would like proceeds to go towards the purchase of new chairs for the Undercroft. Discussion was tabled. Nancy Rand announced the date of annual pre-Christmas cleaning of the Church and also some mini cleanings. Executive decision will be made concerning supporting the Cathedral Journeymen to the SEEK 2024 conference because of timing of our next meeting and time of conference.

### **Sacred Worship**

Kevin will be taking over the scheduling of ministries. We have had a lot of difficulty filling the usher schedule for holy days. Ushers are needed to take up the collection. Stations of the Cross has been changed to Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. during Lent. Stations will be followed by a soup supper which will be held in the Gathering Area. Cor Jesu will be discontinued as of January 2024.

Our next meeting will be **Mardi Gras, Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

The meeting was closed at 7:00 p.m. with Msgr. Gilles leading a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne Ostervich