

**Saint Joseph the Workman Cathedral
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
February 13, 2024
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, Chuck Whalen, Joseph Nduka, Deacon Tom Skemp, Paul Jacobs, Cheri Rifenberg, Jedidiah Taubel, Msgr. Gilles and Lynne Ostervich.

Tammy Becker, Olivia Knapik, and Mike Knapik were excused.

New members of the Parish Pastoral Council, Cheri Rifenberg, Paul Jacobs, and Jedidiah Taubel, were welcomed to the council and each gave a brief introduction of themselves.

Chairman Kevin Decker proceeded with the agenda.

The minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

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

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

Education: Samuel and Sierra Obert are interested in serving on this committee and are on standby.

Social Concerns: Patrick Meredith, Erik Johnson, and Lucas DeLorenzo are serving on this committee.

Family Life: Elizabeth Decker, Mari Erickson, Lauren Harding, Olivia Knapik, Monica Leis, and Megan Forrestal are serving on this committee.

The three standing committees of Education, Family Life, and Social Concerns will meet on the same evening to enable Msgr. Gilles and Kevin in attending the meetings.

Catholic Social Media provided by the Diocese

Flock Notes, part of Catholic Social Media, contains content that is ready to go. This will be used in zeroing in and sending messages to certain groups of people in the parish. This will facilitate human relationships and encounters. It will not replace evangelization at Cathedral.

New Representative to the Aquinas Catholic Schools Education Commission

Names were suggested and also a member of the pastoral council is considering serving as the representative to the education commission.

Renewed Outreach for Homebound Ministry

Homebound parishioners were contacted by mail and phone. Msgr. is also continuing his birthday phone calls in the parish. Mari Erickson is interested in this outreach and will be involved with this ministry.

St. Joseph the Workman Celebration and Hopefully the Grand Opening of the Event/Garage Building

Sunday, May 5 we will have a Cinco de Mayo celebration for the feast day of our patron saint, Saint Joseph the Workman and inaugurate the event/garage space. Kevin has Chef John lined up to make tacos and other delicious food.

Our Mission Statement

Msgr. Gilles stated that we need someone to guide us on a mission statement. We need good, solid principles, not just a slapped together statement. Our current mission statement, written by Msgr. when he first came here, encouraged encounter and engagement. Now we need something more. Our mission statement should be memorable and memorizable. This is a process that needs an extensive discussion. We will schedule a separate meeting for this when the time is right.

The Next Right Thing for Cathedral Parish

Cathedral has grown and expanded. Now we need structure to continue going in the right direction. We will discuss this further at the end of 2024 for 2025. The next right thing should hinge on the mission statement.

Update on the 2023-2024 Diocesan Annual Appeal

90% of our goal has been met. Msgr. Gilles stated that we need to stress the meaning of stewardship and everyone should do their part.

Future Pictorial Directory

Flock notes in Catholic Social Media contains a formal pictorial directory. We are going to check this out as an option for a new directory.

New Business:

Cathedral Sponsored Meal Prep for Warming Center Going Forward

Cathedral teams provided meals at the warming center on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. This was very successful. Beginning in November 2024 we will provide meals every Monday of the month. People for the teams will be recruited beginning this summer.

Sharing the Gospel with the Homeless Once a Week

The homeless that are sheltered at the warming center need to leave at 8:00 a.m. Other places for them to go do not open until 9:00 a.m. Once a week, at the warming center, Cathedral is offering to provide an hour of Bible Study from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. to the people who are staying at the warming center. Members of the parish can be involved and Deacon Skemp and Kevin are both very interested in this program. Coffee may be provided.

Forging a Relationship between Front Door Ministry and Catholic Charities

Cathedral Front Door Ministry and Catholic Charities are trying to work together in serving people in need. Cathedral can help keep a person from being evicted from their home and Catholic Charities through St. Lawrence Ministries offers financial planning for people to be able to take care of themselves. This is a work in progress.

Cathedral Presence for Jail Ministry

Kevin reported that at this time our jails are quite full. Kevin has been asked by the chaplain at the jail to serve on the Jail Ministry Board and has agreed to do this. They meet once a month and can use a Catholic presence. This is a great opportunity for the Social Concerns Committee and Cathedral in general.

Taking a Look at the Men's Club

At this time there are only three men involved in the Men's Club. Men are asking about being involved in a Men's Club at Cathedral. Kevin has been looking at the past projects and events that the Men's Club has sponsored and the men will meet in March to discuss future plans.

Ongoing Synod Participation from Rome

Rome is asking for further participation from parishioners in regard to the Synod. There is an online set of questions for people who are interested in participating to answer. Msgr. Gilles will look into this further and possibly address this from the pulpit and in the bulletin. Next fall will be part two of the Synod.

Promoting "The Answer" Rally June 7

This is an awesome opportunity for our parish to promote Catholicism and look at faith in a new way. Msgr. Gilles is encouraging parishioners to invite people to come to this event. There will be Mass, Adoration, Confession, National Speakers, Powerful Music, and so much more. We need to invite people to attend this event.

New Parishioner Welcome

Msgr. Gilles is interested in holding a new parishioner welcoming party for people who have joined the parish from 2020 - 2024. After this it could be an annual event for new parishioners from the current year. Msgr. will consider some suggestions that were made and then decide exactly what he wants to do.

Cornerstone Annual Parish Events for the year

Cathedral parishioners will host or help plan events to celebrate certain feast days during the year. Some of these events are The Covenant Hearts Dinner, The Birth of St. John the Baptist, Feast of St. Joseph the Workman, the Beacon of Light Picnic, etc.

Plans for our Patronal Feast Day (May 5)

Chef John will be cooking up authentic Mexican food for the celebration of St. Joseph the Workman, our patron saint. There will also be piñatas for the children and music for everyone.

Beacon of Light Celebration Proposed Change of Venue

The annual picnic will be held Sept. 8 at Myrick Park this year. There will be much more room. There will be games for the children, there is a shelter, food and beverages. Kevin, with Jackie Craig, has started organizing already.

New Parishioner Integration

Msgr. Gilles is hoping to involve current parishioners in welcoming new parishioners to Cathedral. This would include meeting them at Mass, taking a short tour of Cathedral, introducing them to other parishioners, making them feel welcome. Msgr. will match up the current parishioners with the new parishioners. Hopefully we will have 10 parishioners as hosts for each Mass.

Committee Reports:

PCCW

The PCCW met on Jan.10, 2024 in the Undercroft of the Cathedral. Old business included a final report on the Christmas bazaar and bake sale.

New business included the following:

Spring fling- Ellie St. John and Sandy Perpich will chair this.

Bake sale- Betty Hayden-Tauscher and Lynne Ostervich will chair. Plan to do after Masses the weekend before Mother's Day.

Easter cleaning of Cathedral- To be announced in bulletin by Nancy Rand.

LDCCW collection- To be done on Sunday of Divine Mercy (pending Bishop's approval). We need four women for each Mass to take up the collection.

LDCCW convention- Sat. April 13th at the Radisson hotel. The La Crosse deanery is the host for the event. Main speaker will be Abby Johnson (movie, Unplanned)

Election of Officers- President and Vice-President terms are expiring. Carol Patterson and Sandy Perpich are chairing the nomination committee. Date of next meeting will be April 10th, 2024.

The Parish Council next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Undercroft**

The meeting was closed at 7:15 p.m. with Msgr. Gilles leading a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Ostervich