 **St. Ursula Pastoral Council Meeting**

**NOTES**

**February 20, 2023 REV1**

*Our Mission: At St. Ursula Catholic Community we are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ through Eucharistic worship, prayer, and service.*

*Our Vision: That all members of our Catholic Community become intentional*

*​disciples of Jesus Christ.*

**ATTENDEES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Fr. Jason Worley | Kellie Reynolds - absent |
| Jeff Breighner | Bill Kreidler |
| Nicole Dyer | Bernie Miller *- absent* |
| Katie Campbell | Mark Appleby - *absent* |
| Sr. Joan Kelly | Colleen Hamilton |
| Linda Frazier | Dave Conroy |
| Shannon Schoelkopf *- absent* | Ellie Wilfong |
| Steve Smith | Tina Reisett *- absent* |

**Summary**

Jeff Breighner opened the meeting with a review of our agenda then turned meeting over to Fr. Jason for an opening prayer.

**Minutes Approval:** Minutes from the January meeting were approved without questions.

**General discussion:** We reviewed the Core Mission Properties of a Pastoral Council to support church teaching while demonstrating and encouraging participation of the laity. St. Ursula aligns with that overview. It was noted that Pastoral Councils aren’t required, but they provide a valuable consultative role. ‘Less law, more spirit’ supports a future-focused parish and a spiritual home for the faithful.

**Key Topic:** We had a wide and deep conversation about the school: service hours (or paying to avoid them), tuition discounts, 6 principals in 9 years, coordinating school events (shouldn’t be scheduled when Holy Days/Liturgical functions occur), partnership needed between church/school, Mother’s Club/Father’s Club, value of former ‘Eyes and Ears’ activity to reinforce Mass. **Next Steps:** A group will review items to address, timetable for implementation and messaging to school families ‘Change is Coming!’. Interaction with the school board is required. Goal is to have new procedures in place before the 23/24 school year.

As part of the education conversation, Religious Education and sacramental prep were reviewed. As with St. Ursula School, action is required to further connect those families with parish life. We also discussed that by holding parishioners accountable (esp. school families) and focusing on their active participation in the life of the parish, St. Ursula would be able to provide more spiritual engagement, more often.

**Liturgy:** No committee report. Lenten and Holy Week schedule reviewed. It was noted that ministry assignments increased sharply for EM’s – the cup will be coming back soon – April?

**Mission Support:**

**Finance:** Katie is still happy about financial outlook 😊.

**Attendance:** Weekly Mass attendance is consistent now in the 700’s! Katie mentioned the **Dan Cellucci’s** **‘What If They Don’t Come Back?’** (Available on YouTube.)

**Facilities:** Nothing new to report. Parishioners have volunteered to perform some ‘final touch’ work which will be coordinated by Fr. Jason, Jeff, and Mark.

**General support:** We talked about Council member responsibility to attend/participate in meetings and activities. We should have a total of 17 members and Bill will begin the process of reviewing empty positions and electing new members. Anyone that isn’t elected should be offered another role.

**Welcome/Encounter:**

**Fundraising**: Colleen reported on opportunities actively under review: Guest bartender event @ Jerry D’s/Desantis Restaurant; Yeti cooler raffle; Boscov’s Community Day coupons; Pick 3 Lotto. Ongoing: Remembrance society, Brick sale.

**Accompaniment:**

**Pastoral Day follow up event at St. Mark’s Fallston on Monday, February 27th:** Attended by: Fr. Jason, Sr. Joan, Laura, Tanya, Paul, Nicole, Terri. The session was an overview of Pastoral Day and a reflection on where we are several months later. Essentially, all parishes face similar challenges with existing culture and similar frustrations shifting paradigms. It can take years to see the fruit of efforts we’re making now, but we’re in for the long haul. We need to meet people where they are. Sharing our experiences can save us from reinventing the wheel. Prayer – especially intercessory – is a powerful tool for all of us to use. Setting aside a time each day for everyone to pray for each other/the parish (even if we’re physically separate), gives our intentions greater spiritual power.

**Activity with Kellie:**

*Kellie was on President’s Day PTO this evening.* Our Council Reflection focused on aspects of church reality and how we can build on it. Another varied list of ideas: **Annual Report that details finances but adds focus on parish community life: sacramental activity (baptisms, weddings, confirmations),** activities; Adding monitors in the Narthex with rolling scenes videos/pictures of parish life, upcoming events; Parish website, podcast (News format, Faith forecast?); “Ask the Council”; Potluck dinner where ministry groups can gather and brainstorm.

**Final Thoughts:** We came away with a new sense of purpose, focusing on next steps to strengthen the St. Ursula Catholic Community Church & School.

**Closing Prayer**: Fr. Jason closed the meeting with prayer.