



Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Parish
150 Fleury Avenue
Prescott, AZ 86301

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes January 3, 2022
“Being the Living Example of God’s Love to Others”

Present: Fr. Raj, Martha Lamb, Michael King, Mark Matthews, Greg Kozlowski, Ms Bernie Heath

Absent: Margarita Arellano, Judy Carlisi, William Rodriguez

Guests: Kevin Keighron and Sr Anne Fitzsimons, Char Hoffman, and Jovita Fine from the Ministry “Care for the Earth.”

Opening Prayer: Michael King

Approval of minutes: Minutes from the November 1, 2021, meeting were approved with corrections to item IV (A) regarding welcoming and hospitality tools for mass attendees. (See approved minutes wording enclosed.)

I Introductions:

A. New Pastoral Council member, Bernie Heath, introduced herself. She is a Catholic since birth, a Parish member for 9 years and has “dabbled” in RCIA and , St. Vincent de Paul ministries during her years here. She asked to be on the Council to help the parish meet parish objectives. William Rodriguez is also a new Council member but was unable to attend this meeting.

II Parish Values: Mark Matthews

Mark shared his experience with volunteering with the Red Cross in New Orleans during the most recent hurricane Ida. He worked in an evacuee shelter. He exhibited all 6 parish values and witnessed other staff and evacuees who did the same.

III Presentation by Members of the Care for the Earth Ministry

The three members of ministry present gave an outstanding briefing on the history Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si and the Action Plan Platform developed globally. The Pope encourages us to protect God’s creation, to embrace lifestyle changes and take care of the poor and more vulnerable affected by environmental conditions and changes. The primary focus of the SHP ministry in the near term is to educate our parish leaders, staff, school, and other ministries of the local Action Plan Platform. Other aspects include continuing education and coordination with other entities in the area. Examples include the Prescott City Council, local faith group ICAT which is the Interfaith Community Action Team. Plans include a week of church/school and community activities in April with school children integrated into the Earth Day activities in our area. Handouts were provided which can be obtained through this ministry members. One was an article in a local newspaper (5 senses) that features stories of culture, science and ideas. It highlighted SHP and schools solar panel grid and the economic benefits to our utility bills. These outward contacts and actions have strong elements of evangelization in their ministry.

IV Update from Father Raj

Father Raj was pleased with the contributions of various ministries in Advent and Christmas festivities. Fr Fred from Chino Valley is on leave of absence, so Fr Ralph is coving the priestly needs of their parish. That leaves Fr Raj and Fr Gaspar to cover SHP priestly functions. There will be a Claretian virtual retreat January 31 – Feb 4. There maybe certain times during the day when a priest will not be available except in an emergency. Thursday, February 24 will be a volunteer appreciation dinner.

Fr announced the following changes to the makeup of the Council and responsibilities of council members.

Current membership is 9 members: the current 7 members plus the two new members Ms Heath and Mr. Rodriguez.

Judy Carlisi resigned as Secretary and Michael King will assume those duties.

Martha Lamb is the new Chairman of the Council effective January 4, 2022.

Vice Chair Henry Cromeek resigned effective December 28, 2021

The vice chair position will remain vacant for the near term.

VI – Vatican, Diocese and Parish Synod

Father Raj briefed the Council on the Vatican initiative to gather ideas from parishes around the world on the themes of catholic 1) communion, 2) laity participation and 3) Catholic mission. The bishop has asked us to develop a report from our parish addressing these 3 aspects of our catholic faith culture. Council members made suggestions on how to gather a representative sample of our parish community to meet the bishops requested response time of March 1. Father Raj will be developing a small team of about 7 people: leaders of various committees and ministries, as a steering group to develop methods to solicit an appropriate response. While this is a big task, the Council will support efforts to meet the diocese objectives. An important source of information is the Diocese website: www.dphx.org/synod. This will be a priority for the next two months.

VII – Next meeting; February 7, 2022

VIII - Closing Prayer; Michael King

Respectfully submitted by Michael King, Council Secretary