



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

Pastoral Council Committee Meeting Minutes May 9, 2022
Being a living example of God's Love to Others"

Present: Fr. Raj, Jim Wren, Martha Lamb, Deacon Mark Matthews, William Rodriguez, Mike King

Absent: Bernie Heath, Margarita Arellano, Jim Yates

Guests: Kevin Keighron

Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order by Martha at 4:00pm

Opening Prayer: Led by Deacon Mark Weber

Approval of minutes: April 4th meeting minutes approved.

Values Sharing: Martha Lamb commended the recent homily of Deacon Ernie Gonzales who identified and gave comments on each of the mission, vision and values of Sacred Heart Parish.

New Business: Briefing on The Legion of Mary. Bonnie Wolff was unable to attend due to short notice family emergency. Martha gave a brief description of the ministry's objectives of bringing the Eucharist to the home bound and the current efforts to recruit more people into this ministry

Pastor's Report: Fr. Raj

Father Raj thanks all the Parish volunteers, staff and clergy for their Easter season activities and the preparation for the upcoming Light of the World (LOTW) He described them as "moments of grace" for our parish community.

Father Gaspar, who is a half time priest shared by Sacred Heart and the Claretians will be on vacation from Mid-June until Mid-August. Our parish will have three visiting priests during this period.

There are two Claretian and Diocesan assemblies in May. Father Gary will do weekday masses from May 30 to June 3 during our priests' absence.

The annual staff and leadership Retreat will be held Friday, July 29. Council members are invited to attend. The theme will be our parish value of Catholic spirituality.

There is a Deanery gathering of northly diocese parishes in July. This is for Priests and Deacons to attend.

The diocese has allowed parishes to make their own policies and procedures regarding pandemic protocols. Our parish will commence passing the collection baskets. We will keep the glass doors closed between the gather place and sanctuary to promote a meditative, peaceful sacred environment possibly with soft music or chants. There are no immediate plans to share our Lord's precious blood during the Eucharist distribution.

Parish Manager's Report: Jim summarized the upcoming LOTW Retreat and the parish's CDA goal and progress to date which have been highlighted in the bulletin and Flock Notes. Our new Parish Safety Ministry Leader is Anthony Weber, and he has developed protocols, responses and staffing to meet various threats to our parish members, staff and facilities.

Our Parish budget is scheduled to be approved at the June Financial Council meeting. The parish and school budgets are in good financial shape. The Diocese wide Catholic Tuition Program and CDA programs have been helpful.

Parish Directory. Father Raj and Jim briefed the Council of the development of a Parish directory. The intent is to highlight the history of the parish, Claretian missionaries, feature our Mission, vision and values and the abundance of our ministries. Other aspects are the role of our council and programs. It will **not** include names, addresses or photos of parish members. It is intended to a parish resource and part of a welcoming package for new parishioners. Committee members to lead this effort are Father Raj, Jim Wren, Terry Brennan and Roger Dubin.

New Business: Status report on how well the parish is doing in meeting the various aspects of worship and liturgy. Pework on the 8 metrics of these aspects were used to aid the dialogue. The first 5 of the 8 objectives were discussed with the following observations. There were no decisions or actions defined for follow up.

Setting a prayerful ambience is improving by closing the doors to the sanctuary, playing meditative music, asking that cell phones be turned off help to preserve a sacred place before and during mass.

Weaving catechetical moments into homilies and opportunities to learn about the liturgical context were not so evident. Developing classes outside of the mass or liturgical service or before mass were suggested for consideration.

Strengthening homilies to be more relevant, engaging and effective were discussed from various perspectives. The bottom line seemed to rest on the idea that each person gets what they look for. The subjects and messages from our homilies are more in the ears in the receiver than in the words of the sender.

Our recent Synod report and the comments of the Council is that we want a more vibrant music program that is congruent with the participant's or mass "personality." An easy and obvious perspective is that our youth mass ought to have music that relates to our youth. Same with the Hispanic mass. We had a previous survey with suggestions. We have not taken on the actions recommended due to numerous factors.

Summary: future opportunities to complete the dialogue on worship and liturgy will be occur. Our next Council meeting is June 6, 2022, at 4:00pm.

Closing Prayer lead by Deacon Mark

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.