

Sacred Heart Parish Prescott
Minutes of Pastoral Council
September 11, 2023, Meeting

Attendees:

Martha Lamb, Chair, Jim Yates, Mark Matthews, Jon Gilwee, Bernie Heath, Craig Thompson

Other Attendees:

Father Raj, Jim Wren, Alma Helms

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Martha called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting were approved as distributed.

Old Business:

Discussion of Old Business was led by Martha. The following areas were focused upon:

- New Parishioner Contact Report: Pastoral Council members will be calling new parishioners joining our parish each month. A list of new parishioners will be provided around the first of the month following the month to each member who is responsible. Martha will be providing a list of assignments.
- Martha provided an update on Parish Eucharistic Revival events. The September 6th event led by Deacon Tony was very successful with approximately 200 attending the event. The next event will be held on October 18th. Consideration is being given to the type of refreshments to be served following the event. It was noted that several parishioners had requested a larger Monstrance. Jim noted that one is to be acquired.
- Parish ministry assignments were discussed. Each Council member is being asked to pick several ministries for which they will serve as liaison. Assignments were discussed among some members. Members are being asked to submit their preferences to Martha.
- Members are asked to be present at the Hospitality Desk for 10 minutes or so after the Mass they attend. Martha circulated a sheet for members to indicate the Mass they usually attend. Martha will circulate a list with the assignments. An inquiry was

received asking how amounts of the collection are allocated when there is a second collection. Jim explained that some are determined by percentage, while others (including Diocesan collections) have separate envelopes for parishioners to use. When there is a second collection, it is announced in the Bulletin the prior weekend. Those who receive envelopes receive the applicable second collection envelopes. Those who subscribe to on-line giving are also notified. Second collection envelopes are made available at the hospitality desk for use by other parishioners. It was decided that for second collection weekends Council members will arrive early to the Mass they attend and distribute envelopes to those who need them upon entrance to the Church. There is a second collection next weekend. We will try this and see how it works.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Raj reported on meeting with ministry leaders and sharing ministry activities. School has begun with 130 students and Parent/Teacher meetings have been scheduled. Marriage Preparation classes are under way with 20-30 couples participating. He also provided an update on the recent Inter Council Staff Dinner.

The distribution of Holy Communion in both species is to begin next month. This has been approved by the bishop. An inquiry was made as to whether there are enough Eucharistic Ministers available to include the distribution of the Precious Blood. Yes, the number of EM's was thought to be adequate, and they are meeting later this month to prepare. Complements were given to Alma for her work with the EM's.

The Eucharistic Rival Committee was complemented for their wonderful work. The blessing of our parish's new statue of Our Lady of Fatima was a good event. Fr. Raj also noted that the first Lord's Bounty Supper event was well done with approximately 20-30 people in need participating in the dinner. Outreach efforts were discussed.

The Parish Vocations Committee is to meet on October 6th. The Claretian Director of Vocations is expected to attend. All Claretian parishes are expected to have a Parish Bible Committee – the formation of such a committee at Sacred Heart is being evaluated.

Parish Manager's Report:

Jim Wren provided his report. He started by commenting on the success of Sacred Heart's recent participation in the City of Prescott's Hopefest 2023 that was held at Courthouse Plaza. There were more than enough volunteers to staff the Sacred Heart table. Jim shared a few touching stories about people that were encountered at the event. There was also discussion on the possibility of ways we might include other parishes in the area.

Jim and Amanda participated with a table at the Embry-Riddle Orientation. This was very successful, the Catholic Club president also participated. Many denominations were invited to participate. It was noted that religion is an important part of Embry-Riddle. Mass is held at Embry-Riddle each Sunday with 30-40 students participating.

Progress is being made in establishing a Mental Health Ministry at Sacred Heart. This is a diocese initiative. The diocese has issued guidelines that are 122 pages in length. Again, it is being worked on.

A new parishioner dinner is now scheduled for October 19th at 5:30pm in the school gym. This is a very important activity, and all Council members are encouraged to participate and welcome everyone who has joined Sacred Heart Parish over the past year. We have approximately 100 new families. Council member spouses are also welcome to participate.

We do need to promote keeping our Church clean and our tables in orderly fashion. Jim and Alma spend much time picking up and keeping tables organized. Everyone needs to remember that our Church is God's house.

At this month's Eucharistic Revival meeting, Deacon Tony referred to the book "This is My Body". A supply of these books has now been donated to the parish. Jim reported that he is serving as the point person for Sacred Heart for the Eucharistic Revival program. He referred to the newsletter that has been distributed. Martha encouraged members to subscribe to the newsletter. It can be done at www.eucharisticrevival.org. The newsletter comes out each Thursday.

New Business:

- Election of New Council Secretary – The Council unanimously elected Jon Gilwee to serve as Council Secretary.
- Saint of the Month – A Council member will be selected each month to provide a brief report on saint of their choice. Council members will inform Martha of their choices. It was noted that there will be a Blessing of the Animals on October 4th, the Feast Day for St. Francis of Assisi.
- What's New in Diocese/Quad Cities Parishes – Fr. Raj reported that he would be meeting with parishes next week. Also, there is Deanery meeting set for next June. The Deanery is comprised of all the parishes in Northern Arizona. There will be Clergy Convocation held next week in Flagstaff. Fr. Raj will have more to report at the next meeting. Many expressed desire to find ways to do more/share more with local parishes. Pros and cons of the Deanery process and past experiences were discussed, including unique aspects of each parish. It was suggested that singing "Anima Christi" might be included in Mass. This suggestion will be referred to the Liturgy Committee for assessment.

Closing Prayer/Adjournment:

Martha led a closing prayer and then adjourned the meeting at 5:00pm.