

**Sacred Heart Parish Prescott**  
**Minutes of the Pastoral Council**  
**February 12, 2024, Meeting**

**Attendees:** Martha Lamb, Chair, Mark Matthews, Jon Gilwee, John Williams, Craig Thompson

**Absent:** Jim Yates, Deacon Mark Weber, Bernie Heath, William Rodriguez

**Other Attendees:** Fr. Raj, Jim Wren, Alma Helms, Rory Endrizzi

**Call to Order/Opening Prayer:**

Martha L. called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and led the opening prayer.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

The Minutes of the January 8, 2024, meeting were approved as distributed.

**Old Business:**

**- New Parishioner Report**

Martha L. provided her report on contacts for new parishioners joining our Parish in January. Several contacts were leaving messages and sending emails. She did speak with three new parishioners, and they were all thrilled to have received the call. Martha L. noted one of the more common questions received from new parishioners is about envelopes. There is a place to check on the registration form to order envelopes. Jim W. elaborated that we are actively encouraging on-line giving rather than envelopes.

Martha L. distributed an updated New Parishioner Contact Schedule. The only changes to the schedule distributed were that Jon G. will be making contacts in June, and Martha L. will be making contacts in July.

**- Eucharistic Revival Events Update**

Martha L. provided an update on the Northern Arizona Eucharistic Conference that will be hosted by Sacred Heart on June 29<sup>th</sup>. She provided information regarding the conference after Masses and the response from parishioners has

been positive. There are already some parishioners who have volunteered to help. Mark your calendars and plan to participate! The event will continue to be publicized and Fr. Matt will be making a video to promote the event among Northern Arizona parishes. Jim W. noted that a registration form is being prepared for the event and parishioners will be able to register on-line on Sacred Heart's website. The form will be available soon.

This month's Eucharistic Encounter Night was canceled due to the recent snow and will not be rescheduled. The next Eucharistic Encounter Night will be on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **- Common Grounds Update**

Martha L. updated the Council on the effort earlier this month to reestablish Common Grounds after the 7:00am and 9:00am Masses. It was well attended, and many were happy to have it back. So far, seven ministry groups have volunteered to sponsor Common Grounds each taking a month later in the year (a copy of the list was distributed). Martha L. will work on completing the list.

#### **Pastor's Report – Fr. Raj**

The issue of establishing a Ministry for the Homebound was discussed. Martha L. shared that she meets weekly with a disabled parishioner and it has been a great experience. The disabled parishioner she meets with has asked about a creating a Ministry for the Homebound. It was noted that parishioners who are homebound miss contact with the Parish. Martha's friend might serve as a contact. Interest would need to be assessed. Jim W. said we had three volunteers that checked on our seniors during COVID. Fr. Raj reminded Council members that establishing a ministry must both be responsive to a need and have a sufficient number of parishioners desiring to participate. The Eucharistic Ministers and Legion of Mary members do reach out and visit sick and disabled. It may be best to begin an assessment of interest with these ministries.

Fr. Raj commented on the participation of priests in Claretian Assembly in Los Angeles last Friday. It was an important opportunity to pray for the success of the parish.

On Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, Deacon Joe will be honored in two separate celebrations. Jim W. will have more information to share in his report.

Fr. Raj restated the need for all of us to help promote the Northern Arizona Eucharistic Conference to be hosted here at Sacred Heart on June 29<sup>th</sup>. There is now a current focus on promoting participation in the Diocese of Phoenix Charity and Development Appeal (CDA).

There will be a Deanery Parish Visit on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The visit will be with Fr. David Kelash who is the Dean for our region. He will be meeting with Pastoral Council members at 2:30pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate. Jim W. distributed questionnaire forms to aid in the visit. All were asked to complete the form and to bring it with them to the meeting.

Preparations for Ash Wednesday are underway. As we enter the Lenten season, there will be additional explanations of rules with respect to abstinence and fasting. Ash Wednesday Masses will be 7:00am, 8:30am, 12:15pm, 5:30pm and 7:00pm (Spanish).

There will be an Anointing of the Sick Mass on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Anointing of the Sick will also now be available after 9:00am Mass beginning this Sunday.

Fr. Raj informed the Council that Bernie Heath has asked to resign from the Pastoral Council due to health issues. Her resignation was approved, and the Council was appreciative of her contributions.

Fr. Raj announced that he will be on a four-month sabbatical beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>. During this period, Fr. Reagan will be filling in at Sacred Heart. During the sabbatical period, he will stay in communication with Martha L. Fr. Raj may not be returning as Sacred Heart Pastor. The issue of who will be our pastor beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> is uncertain. Therefore, following the March 4<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Council meeting, the Pastoral Council will be suspended until further notice. It will be the responsibility of the new pastor to reconvene the Pastoral Council as he may see fit. Martha L. emphasized that, during this period of suspension, it is important that we continue with other Pastoral Council activities such as manning the information table after weekend Masses and the monthly calling of new parishioners.

### **Parish Manager's Report – Jim Wren**

Jim W. proudly introduced Rory Endrizzi, Sacred Heart's new Director of Catechesis. Today is Rory's official first day. Rory is from North York, Ontario, Canada, and has an impressive background. He will have an opportunity to get started by attending this coming weekend's Rite of Election and be able to meet Bishop Dolan. Rory will have a completely new job description – it will be different from Muriel's job description. Rory will be ensuring consistency in catechesis across all ministries.

Jim W. reported on the challenges the recent snows presented for Sacred Heart Church and School. We were hit pretty hard, but we made it through. Many difficult decisions needed to be made within limited time. All were appreciative of Jim W.'s leadership during this period. He reported that operations, including the office, were back to normal by Friday.

On Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be two celebrations for Deacon Joe. After the 9:00am Mass, there will be a presentation to Deacon Joe. A reception with refreshments will be held after the Spanish Mass at approximately 2:00pm. The reception should be well attended. Jim W. noted that he needs some volunteers to help. Volunteers should come at 12:30pm to help with set up.

February 25<sup>th</sup>(6:30pm), 26<sup>th</sup>(9:00am and 6:30pm) and 27<sup>th</sup>(9:00am and 6:30pm), will be the Lenten Mission with featured speaker Fr. Paulson.

The importance of everyone participating in the March 6<sup>th</sup> Deanery Visit (2:30pm) was emphasized by Jim W. The meeting with Pastoral Council members would likely last approximately 30 minutes.

A reminder was provided that a Memorial Mass for Fr. Gary will be held tomorrow (February 13<sup>th</sup>) at noon. The office will be closed during the Memorial Mass.

### **Old Business – Continued**

The Pastoral Council viewed the second part of the video "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist".

Following the viewing, Council members shared their thoughts and reactions to the presentation. The third and final part will be viewed at the next Pastoral Council meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. All were reminded that, after this next meeting, Pastoral Council meetings will be suspended until further notice.

### **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

The closing prayer was led by Martha L. The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.