

**Sacred Heart Parish Prescott**  
**Minutes of the Pastoral Council**  
**March 4, 2024, Meeting**

**Attendees:** Martha Lamb, Chair, Jim Yates, Jon Gilwee, John Williams, Craig Thompson

**Absent:** Deacon Mark Weber, Mark Matthews, William Rodriguez

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

**Call to Order/Opening Prayer:**

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

**Approval of the Minutes:**

The Minutes of the February 12, 2024, meeting were approved as distributed.

**Old Business:**

An update on the upcoming Eucharistic Revival Conference was provided by Martha L. She is currently waiting to hear from Fr. Paulson regarding our invitation for him to be a speaker. Fr. Paulson will be returning to India soon and all were encouraged to pray for him, and the safety of all Claretians given the current unrest in India.

Registration for the June 29, 2024, Northern Arizona Eucharistic Revival Conference to be hosted at Sacred Heart is now available on-line on the Sacred Heart website. Jim W. noted 30 people have already enrolled. Most of whom are from Sacred Heart, however some are from Quartzsite and St. Germaine. All felt this was a good response given the short time enrollment has been available. All are encouraged to participate and to offer to assist where possible.

Martha reported that she will be participating in the Bishop's podcast to promote the event and there will be more information to come.

### **Pastor's Report – Fr. Raj**

Fr. Raj expressed his appreciation for the service provided by Pastoral Council members. During the period of his upcoming sabbatical, Pastoral Council meetings will be suspended. However, Fr. Raj encouraged all to continue their leadership on Common Grounds and also to continue with the distribution of Bulletins after weekend Masses. He also stressed the importance of continuing our expression of hospitality toward new parishioners, including our monthly contacts with new parishioners.

March promises to be a very busy month with Holy Week and Easter preparations. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be a healing Mass, and Anointing of the Sick is offered each Sunday after 9:00am Mass. He felt there had been a good response. The Day of Reflection will be on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Last week, Fr. Raj met with the Hispanic Ministry and the Youth Ministry. 22 people made their First Confession last week.

There is no news to report on decisions to be made by the Claretians with respect to the Fr. Raj's future, or who will be appointed as pastor for Sacred Heart Parish.

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

Jim W. provided comments on upcoming Parish events. Jim W. will be the speaker at the next Encounter Night to be held in the Church at 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Special Confession hours are being arranged prior to Easter including 4:00pm – 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Stations of the Cross will be on the Courthouse Plaza again this year beginning at noon on Good Friday and will be conducted by the Youth Ministry. All are encouraged to participate.

Jim W. reminded everyone of the Deanery Parish Visit scheduled for Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. A meeting with Fr. David Kelash, Dean of our region, is scheduled for 2:30pm. This meeting should not last more than 30 minutes. All are encouraged to participate and to complete and bring with them the questionnaire that was distributed at the last meeting.

The recent storms have caused damage to Sacred Heart property. There was water leak damage in the kitchen. It has now been repaired. The

snow weight has also caused damage to the gutters on the school building. It is in the process of being fixed.

An information sheet was distributed regarding a petition regarding abortion now circulating in Arizona. It is misleading and the Diocese recommends NOT signing. Jim W. also reminded all present that no petition signing activity of any kind is allowed on Sacred Heart property. Members were also encouraged to periodically check our information tables for any unauthorized material.

An update on CDA progress was provided. As of today, we have raised approximately \$63,000, about 50% of our goal.

Fr. Raj commented on the desire to increase Catholic school enrollment. He is looking for feedback and suggestions for strategies to achieve this goal.

#### **Old Business – Continued:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final part of the video presentation “Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist” was viewed.

Discussion followed observing how much of Catholicism has its roots in Jewish traditions and foundations. Also, noted were the parts of the Old Testament that foreshadowed the Eucharist and the Holy Trinity.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Martha L. reminded everyone that the Pastoral Council is now suspended until further notice. Fr. Raj indicated he would likely want to meet one last time with the Pastoral Council, possibly at 4:00pm on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Martha L. will send out a meeting notice prior to any future meeting. Beyond that date, the future of the Pastoral Council, including its composition, will be a matter for the new pastor.

#### **Closing Prayer and Adjournment:**

The closing prayer was led by John W. The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.