

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

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

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

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

*It is noted that Minutes of the March 4, 2024, meeting were approved via email due to Fr. Raj's sabbatical.*

**Call to Order/Opening Prayer:**

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

Martha L. announced that today would be our final meeting with Fr. Raj and then this Pastoral Council will be disbanded. It will be a responsibility of Sacred Heart's new pastor to designate his own Pastoral Council.

**Parish Budget FY 24/25**

Terry Brennan, Chair of the Finance Council, was present to provide an overview of the 24/25 Sacred Heart Parish Budget to the Pastoral Council. He described the process and content of the Budget formulated by the Finance Council. The budget was approved by Fr. Raj and accepted by the Finance Council at its June meeting.

It was noted by Jim W. that the incoming Order will have its own rules that will differ from Claretian rules. It is likely some budget amendments will be necessary in the future to accommodate these new rules. The Pastoral Council complemented the Finance Council and Jim W. for the sound budget and strong reserve budgets maintained for Sacred Heart Parish.

The Pastoral Council concurred with the 24/25 budget and budget development process described by Terry B.

## **Pastor's Report – Fr. Raj**

Fr. Raj expressed his appreciation for the service provided by Pastoral Council members. He returned last night after 4 months on sabbatical. He had the opportunity to visit many Claretian sites to reflect on his vocation and strengthen his mission. Fr. Raj was also able to spend time with his family. Fr. Raj noted that he spent the last 11 years at Sacred Heart, 5 years as Associate Pastor and 6 years as Pastor. He has learned a great deal, and it has been a most rewarding experience.

Fr. Raj posed some questions to Pastoral Council members for their reflection and input.

Question 1: How have you lived your Christian life in the last 3-4 months?

Responses highlighted recent participation in the Regional Eucharistic Revival held here at Sacred Heart. Others commented on activities they performed in support of the Eucharistic Revival. Also included were efforts at being a good father and spouse, sharing of scripture, participating in "That Man is You", witnessing, and helping neighbors in need through St. Vincent de Paul.

Question 2: How has Sacred Heart Parish helped you in the last year?

Pastoral Council members noted that Sacred Heart Parish has been a constant help in their lives. Sacred Heart is a very "helping" parish. There is great warmth here. It is wonderful to be able to meet many like-minded people. We are truly a most welcoming spiritual family.

Question 3: Would you please comment on the quality of clergy and staff communication?

Comments noted the wonderful guidance provided and the excellent and open communication. Again, Sacred Heart Parish is a family, and, like any family, it needs help and guidance. All agreed we, as Sacred Heart parishioners, are blessed to have such wonderful clergy and staff to guide us and care for us including through those difficult moments encountered by any family. It was noted that caring and guidance is a two-way street involving staff and parishioners. Our staff and clergy are clearly guided by the Holy Spirit!

Fr. Raj, again, said how appreciative he is of what he has learned in the last few years as Sacred Heart Pastor. He has had a wonderful meeting with Fr. Krzysztof, our new incoming pastor. It is important that we all pray for our new pastor and priests.

Fr. Raj thanked Martha L. and the many others who contributed to the exemplary organization of the recent Regional Eucharistic Revival hosted here at Sacred Heart Church. Some of the wonderful spiritual experiences at the Revival were described. Fr. Raj noted that it was estimated that approximately 60,000 persons attended the recent Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. The importance of welcoming Catholics back to the Church as also discussed.

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

Jim W. noted that everyone's Safe Environment Training expired at the end of June. Now is the time to go online and renew your training for the 24/25 year. If you have not done it, please do it now. Completion of Safe Environment Training is a requirement for all Sacred Heart Parish volunteers.

The Installation Mass scheduled for Saturday (July 27<sup>th</sup>) at 5:00pm was discussed. Bishop Dolan will be presiding, and he will install Fr. Krzysztof as the new Sacred Heart Pastor. During the Installation, the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council and the Hispanic Council will be introduced. All have been invited to attend. Pews in the main section of the Church will be reserved and will be clearly marked for Council members and their spouses. All are encouraged to attend.

There will be a simple reception following Mass in the gym and it will be serve - yourself. Jim W. asked that all council members attending the reception to please stay at the end for a bit and help clean up.

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

Fr. Raj expressed his appreciation to all for their service and dedication to Sacred Heart Parish. It is now time for him to say "good-bye".

The closing prayer was led by Fr. Raj. Martha L. announced that this Pastoral Council is now officially disbanded. The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.