

Sacred Heart Parish Prescott
Minutes of the Pastoral Council
August 5, 2024, Meeting

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

Absent: Deacon Mark Weber, William Rodriguez, Mark Matthews

Other Attendees: Fr. Chris, Fr. Biju, Jim Wren, Alma Helms,

Call to Order/Opening Prayer:

Martha L. called the meeting to order at 4:05pm and led the opening prayer.

Minutes Approval:

The Minutes of the July 24, 2024, meeting were approved as distributed.

Prior to today's meeting, Martha L. had notified Pastoral Council members via email that Fr. Chris, Pastor, has decided to reappoint members of the previous Pastoral Council as his current Pastoral Council.

Martha L. distributed updated Pastoral Council Rosters and the assignment schedule for new parishioner contacts through December 2024.

Today's meeting did not have a formal agenda. This was an informal meeting for Fr. Chris and Fr. Biju to become more acquainted with Pastoral Council Members and learn more about past Pastoral Council activities and suggestions for future directions.

Pastoral Council members shared their backgrounds and visions for the Pastoral Council and Parish. Members also shared areas where they may have been assigned responsibilities or liaison duties. Many articulated a need for better plans and goals for the Parish. In the past, it seems many of the Pastoral Council agendas were event focused. The Council should also provide a forum for the discussion of Parish goals and for monitoring achievement.

Comments on potential future issues included development of a Catholic High School, future development of Sacred Heart School, composition and functioning of the Pastoral Council, the Parish budget review process, and a general need for development of a current strategic plan.

Fr. Chris, Fr. Biju and several members shared and discussed prior experiences with Pastoral Councils at other parishes.

Jim W. indicated that Sacred Heart Parish does have Mission, Vision, and Values Statement. Some were familiar and others, especially the newer Pastoral Council members, were not.

The role of the Pastoral Council was discussed. There was a consensus that the Pastoral Council is to be a forum for the Pastor, Fr. Chris, to discuss ideas, and to seek advice. It is also where Pastoral Council members may bring important issues to the Pastor's attention. The Pastoral Council is an advisory body and does not make decisions on its own.

All Pastoral Council members agreed that Sacred Heart Parish was blessed to have such wonderful and competent staff.

Before we get into many specific topics/issues, it may be best for us to review our Mission, Vision and Values Statement. It is important for us to review and understand our Mission, Vision and Values Statement so that any goals we may recommend are well aligned. Fr. Chris pointed out that as we do this, it is necessary we respect Diocesan and Order rules that may apply. Relationships with the Diocese of Phoenix and application of CDA funds was briefly discussed. We should be able to review our plans and deal with current issues at the same time.

Martha L. is sending out the Sacred Heart Parish Mission, Vision and Values Statement along with the Sacred Heart Pastoral Constitution/Bylaws, and Pastoral Council Guidelines to all for their review.

Fr. Chris noted the Bishop has told him that it is time to prepare for designation as a Jubilee Year site next year. Now is the time to begin.

Next Meeting:

Our next regularly scheduled meeting date falls on Labor Day. It was determined we will not meet on Labor Day, and we will postpone our meeting one week. Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 9th at 4:00pm in the Sacred Heart Room.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment:

The closing prayer was led by Fr. Chris. The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm