

Sacred Heart Parish Prescott
Minutes of the Pastoral Council
September 26, 2024, Meeting

This meeting was initially scheduled for September 9, 2024, and was rescheduled for today.

Attendees: Jim Yates, Vice-Chair, Jon Gilwee, John Williams, Mark Matthews

Absent: Martha Lamb, Chair, Deacon Mark Weber, William Rodriguez, Craig Thompson

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

Call to Order/Opening Prayer:

Jim Y. called the meeting to order at 2:05pm and led the opening prayer.

Minutes Approval:

The Minutes of the August 5, 2024, meeting were approved as distributed.

Old Business:

There was no report on new parishioner contacts due to the absence of Craig T.

New Business:

“Parents and Families at the Center of Faith Formation”

Rory E., Director of Catechesis, provided a presentation regarding this new initiative. It has been adopted by the Diocese of Phoenix and is a program developed by the NCCL (National Community of Catechetical Leaders).

Rory E. distributed a paper describing the program to Pastoral Council members. The program has a focus on the family and is aimed at keeping children, especially older children, from drifting away from our Catholic faith. This is being started as a new ministry at Sacred Heart and Rory E. is seeking to establish a steering committee comprised of 12 persons of which 6 will be Spanish speakers. He is also hoping a Pastoral Council member will volunteer to be on the steering committee. This is to be a five-year program focused on our youth and also parents.

Fr. Chris noted that more information on the structure of the program is needed. Since this is the first time we are all seeing this paper, Jim Y. suggested we all take time to read through the distributed paper and that this program be placed on the agenda for further discussion at our next meeting.

Rory E. will distribute the paper to Pastoral Council members via email, and he will also distribute a video that further describes the program.

While not knowing much of the detail, Pastoral Council members recognized the positive nature of the program. A few initial suggestions were made that included involving parents at Sacred Heart School, events and activities would likely be needed (a movie night, potluck dinner, picnic etc.), and publicizing the program to the wider community may be necessary.

Parish Manager's Report

Jim W. updated Pastoral Council member on several important upcoming parish events.

The New Parishioner Dinner will be held in the school gym on Thursday, October 17th at 5:30pm. This dinner provides an important opportunity for new parishioners to get to know the Parish better and to be introduced to the many ministry groups that provide many opportunities for participation. This is a very important parish event. All new parishioners over the past year have been sent invitations. Jim W. is in the process of inviting ministry leaders to attend. Pastoral Council members are also welcome to participate. Just let the office know if you are coming.

Sacred Heart School students will be performing a living Rosary on Friday, October 18th at 12:45pm.

The Knights of Columbus will host the Silver Rose devotion honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, October 18th. The devotion will be presented in English and Spanish.

On Sunday, October 20th the Sacred Heart Heritage Festival will be held beginning at 10am featuring different types of food and games. It will be in

the school gym and surrounding grounds. Jim W. noted that last year's Heritage Festival had the largest attendance.

Jim W. also commented on Prescott's Hopefest that was held on the Courthouse Plaza in September. It was well organized and a successful day. He told about arriving early and praying with the homeless. We were more selective in the materials we had available and fewer volunteers. All seemed to go very well. Of 150 Rosaries that were made, only about 20 came back.

Sacred Heart Parish also participated in Embry-Riddle's orientation in August. This was also a very positive event.

Our "Diocesan Assessment" (audit) was completed. It consisted of a three day site visit. While the final report has yet to be received, Jim W. was verbally apprised of the findings and there were very few minor comments provided. Most of the comments have already been addressed. The final report will be received soon.

Sacred Heart Parish has officially been designated for the upcoming Jubilee Year. It will be throughout the 2025 liturgical year. The Bishop will be here to celebrate Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2025, and launch the Jubilee Year.

A review of the parish website is also beginning – comments are welcome.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Chris reported that approximately 180 priests attended the convocation recently held in Flagstaff. On the last day, the Bishop stated the Diocese is beginning a seven year process of evangelization. Evangelization is intended to mean growing in faith. There is to be a greater focus on our Hispanic communities and new priests will be required to speak Spanish. Also at the convocation, there was a focus placed on reviewing and standardizing the process for Confirmation.

Fr. Chris noted the interest by members of surrounding parishes to have children baptized here at Sacred Heart. He also reported that there are now 50 seminarians studying to enter the priesthood.

Other:

John W. raised the issue of Sacred Heart School security and presented a copy of a petition that is circulating on this topic. Pastoral Council members present receive copies. This matter will be placed on our next agenda for discussion. Jim W. noted that these matters are being addressed and in ways not necessarily visible to all. He will invite members of our Security Ministry to participate in the discussion.

Next Meeting:

Dates for future Pastoral Council meetings were discussed. It was decided that future Pastoral Council meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month, 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Future Pastoral Council meetings will be held in the St. Anthony Claret Room. Our next meeting will be on October 31, 2024, at 2:00pm.

Closing Blessing:

The closing blessing was given by Fr. Chris. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm