

Present: Msgr. Thomas Cook, Sandy Strand, Cheryl Meger, Terry Evans, Jackie Evans, Shirley Schultz, Ev Stransky, Deacon Scot Berkley, Stacey Hannover, Jim Joachim, Peggy Keller, Andrew Thigpin and Ray Bissen.

Call to Order & Prayer: Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Jackie Evans, Council Chair. Msgr. Cook led the group in the Prayer for Peace.

Introductions: Stacey Hannover will be assuming the role of Trustee at the start of 2025 as the term for Bill Lawrence will end December 31, 2024. Stacey is currently a member of the Finance Council. Three new Pastoral Council members were welcomed: Jim Joachim, Peggy Keller and Andrew Thigpin. Msgr. Cook clarified the role of the trustee (main advisor/oversees finance) and of the Pastoral Council (advisory board/makes recommendations/no decisive votes).

Agenda Approval: Agenda was reviewed and approved.

Review and approve minutes from August 20, 2024, meeting: Motion was made by Terry Evans to approve the minutes as written. Shirley Schultz seconded the motion and all approved.

Pastor's report for Pastoral Council

- **Advent Giving Tree** – Assistance is needed with the setup of a tree before the 1st Sunday in Advent with ornaments listing items to be collected for people in need. This project is through Catholic Charities of Winona. Jackie Evans, Shirley Schultz, and Ray Bissen offered to assist. Information will be in the bulletin.
- **Fellowship Sunday** – December 8, hosted by Bill and Marie Lawrence. Carolers are set to sing on December 15, and will now sing at the KC breakfast, instead of during fellowship. Terry Evans to speak with KC's and Sandy Strand to call Carolers.

Old Business:

- **Parish Directory** – Jackie Evans, Cheryl Meger, and Tiffany Klecker will meet with Bart Hawkinson of Unique Church Solutions in early January 2025 to learn more about the process. Potential dates for the photos are April 22 – May 3, 2025. Hours for parishioners to get pictures taken include Tuesday through Friday 2:00 – 8:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Sign up for times will occur at church or online. Shirley Schultz's grandchildren will begin taking photos for the parish life pages. Deacon Scot will contact Scott Cody about taking photos of the church for the directory with updated altar décor.
- **REP Wednesday evening student/parent soup supper** – the date for the soup supper will be January 29, 2025 (during Catholic Schools week). Sacred Heart will sponsor the supper for REP students from both Catholic Parishes (St. Joseph declined participation at this time). Msgr. Cook will connect with the school principal

about the date and time and potential use of the school cafeteria and gym. Set up will begin at 5:00 PM. Ray Bissen, Andrew Thigpen, and Shirley Schultz will do additional planning.

- **Oak Hill Community Connections** – The question resurfaced about what type of medical services will be offered at the facility, specific to abortion counseling. Msgr. Cook will work to find an answer to this question. More discussion about the Oak Hill project in the Pastor's Report to follow.

New Business:

- **Advent Wreath for St. Mary's** – Ray Bissen inquired about an Advent wreath to put up at St. Mary's, perhaps on the front door. Msgr. Cook indicated that can be discussed at the School Board meeting.
- **Standing Committees** – Question was posed by Andrew Thigpen, wondering if membership in the Pastoral Council indicated that leadership of a standing committee (such as Social Justice, Respect Life, Liturgy, etc.) was expected. At present, many of the standing committees dissolved with lack of membership/leadership and because of COVID 19. Msgr. Cook indicated that with the addition of Pastoral Council members we have potential for growth in committee development. Bishop Barron will be holding a diocesan synod in May/June of 2025. The anticipated emphasis will be evangelization and vocations (more priests and more people in the pews). This would be a good starting point for re-organization and renewal of standing committees. This will be added to the agenda for the next Pastoral Council meeting.

Next Meeting: February 18, 2025 @ 5:30 pm

Agenda Planning for Next Meeting:

- Parish Directory update
- Follow up for REP soup supper
- Standing Committees
- Oak Hill Community Connections
- Additional agenda items may be forwarded to the council chair via email.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned by Jackie Evans at 6:29 pm.

5 Minute Break – followed by a joint meeting of the Pastoral Council and Finance Council to hear the Pastor's Report.

Pastor's Report:

- **Introduction** - New Finance Council member, Brian Haggerty, was introduced.
- **Mass Attendance** – Weekend average is 610 attendees, with many young families. There has been a lot of marriage prep, we have a young OCIA group, and there is a

potential youth group for high school students in the works. Additionally, the Young Adult Catholic group is successfully gathering for events.

- **Capital Campaign** –\$169,898 has been raised, with \$27,625 pledged, leaving us \$102,477 short of the goal. All maintenance and repair that has been completed for 2024 has been paid. Historically, only 2% of pledges have been uncollectable during campaigns. The tuck-pointing project on the two towers is scheduled for 2025. All funds need to be collected by the end of 2025.
- **Oak Hill Community Connections project** – Area churches have been asked to participate in financing the rent and utilities on a yearly basis, estimated to be around \$67,000, with \$35,000 already pledged by two area parishes. We need to respond with our pledge by January 1, 2025. Renovation of the building is expected to be complete by fall of 2025, making our commitment for that year approximately three months. Both councils have several questions prior to advising an amount to contribute:
 - “Will the advertised services for health needs include abortion counseling?”
 - “Just for local people or those from other towns as well?”
 - “Is the estimated dollar value requested inclusive of all rent and utilities, or just for the housing area?”
 - “Who owns the building?”
 - “Is this a year-by-year commitment?”
 - “Have we discussed a contribution with St. Joseph (to represent the Catholic Community)?”

Msgr. Cook will seek answers to these questions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Ann Meger, Secretary