

Pastoral Council Meeting

Sept 11, 2024

Present: Fr Chris, Derek Hunter, Denny Jenkins, Shannon Stull, Collin Spader, Shelly Williams. **Excused:** Travis Magato, Scott Hanes.

Meeting was called to order by Derek and opening prayer led by Fr Chris.

Discussion commenced regarding the need to add 1-2 new council members to better balance our current team. Shannon, Derek, and Father will approach the suggested parishioners, who include LeeAnn Nason Waggoner, Janeen Gegorski, and Dan Hall. If they are agreeable, the intent is to have them start with the next monthly meeting.

The parish Vision Statement remains a primary focus. Agreement by all to keep it simple and short. A suggestion was made to first look at all the current activities and ministries offered at Sacred Heart Parish. Development of the Vision Statement will follow. Our intent is to ensure the Vision Statement coordinates all and that we, as a parish, will be able to support the statement through our actions.

Father emphasized that evangelization takes place through all these ministries when we participate in a ministry and then talk about it at work or with friends, i.e. the Rescue Project, ACTS, OCIA, etc. Other ideas to evangelize include social media, personal testimonies at Mass or on social media, and personal invitations directly from us to others.

Shannon volunteered to compile a list of the current parish activities and ministries for our next meeting. Our goal is to be able to present the ministry list and a new Vision Statement to the parish within 2-3 months max. We want the parish to be excited as we look closer at our strengths and search for other areas in which to grow. We will need to present the information in small bites. Derek suggested we focus on 3 main items for our Vision to help people remember it and own it. Collin suggested using our Vision Statement as we do the "Diocesan Prayer," before or after each Mass and possibly use it in homilies. Collin also suggested 3 focus areas to use for our Vision Statement: Worship, Evangelization, and Sacraments. The parish Mission Statement will then describe each area of the Vision Statement.

Father Chris led a short discussion on current parish finances. He reminded us that several parishioners, who were extra generous donors, have died over the past 6-12 months. He is looking for ideas from the parish leadership committees. Suggested ideas that were offered include:

- Identifying areas people can specifically donate to, i.e. Rescue Project, EQUIP program.

- People tend to give to what they know about, i.e. sponsoring a student to go to Steubenville.
- Keep the second monthly collection. Possibly designate a weekly collection for something specific.
- Tithing – “soft explanation” of it and the benefits.
- Show people where our money is being used and what ministries are provided.

Denny closed the meeting with prayer.

Our next meeting will be Wed, Oct 9 following the 6:30 pm Mass. Opening prayer to be led by Collin and closing prayer by Derek.