

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Pastoral Council Minutes
Jan 26, 2022

Attendance:

Lesly Aleman ✓

Will Cecere ✓

Carmen Chandross ✓

Patti Clifford ✓

Marisa Yopez ✓

Mark Niehaus ✓

Steven Sisman ✓

Sarah Jones ✓

Marianne Kish ✓

Monsignor Keeney ✓

Father Chris

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM.
- II. Opening Prayer led by Monsignor
- III. Discussion of night prayer
- IV. Approval of Minutes for Nov 30, 2021 and Dec 16, 2021 meetings
 - A. Motion by Marianne to approve Nov & Dec minutes with one grammatical error - approved by 8 members, 1 abstention because member was not present
- V. Review of PC member information
 - A. Review of contact information and communication preferences
 - B. Review of document access on Google Drive
 - C. Two pastoral council members recently left the council: Doug Campbell & Mitchell Hillman
 - D. Mark will mail agenda prior to PC meetings
 - E. Text reminder for meetings
- VI. Selection of a date for Synod on Synodality meeting facilitated by John Kronstain
 - A. Mark: It would be easiest to use the Feb 23rd PC meeting for this purpose since we all plan to attend. PC members express agreement
- VII. Recent financial gift

Monsignor: We have received a significant financial gift, but due to the terms at the present we do not have a way to use this money. It was given for debt relief, but as we currently do not have debt we cannot use the money in this way

The Finance Council expressed concern about spending money without having a way to securing money in the future, especially since we do not have a staff member as a minister for justice & charity

Another idea is to accept the gift as a way of exploring how to do a capital campaign. We have identified two "big ticket" items: (1) HVAC units need replacing (2 units for parish hall & church; 10 units that are above the other building) and should be run through the floor rather than run through the ceiling; (2) the parking lots need a new foundation & then new asphalt. Since these are pricey "must do" expenses that our church will incur, it may also make sense to pursue renovations to the nave to make it theologically correct. Examples include bringing the sacristy into the nave, put the have the tabernacle be the centerpiece instead of the altar, add a center aisle, add kneelers, add artwork to the nave, re-doing the ceiling. Funds can also help with renovations that will eventually need to happen (e.g. bathroom

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renovation with hallway re-design). The total cost of this project may be up to \$3 million. The financial gift can fund a study.

Open discussion:

Sarah: Since church renovations was one of the reasons why my family left St. Thomas Aquinas parish, I am very concerned about raising money for a project where beautifying the church is the main expense. About 1/3 of families left St. Thomas Aquinas for this reason.

Patti: similar to Sarah, I also have concerns about using large sums of money for a project like what is being proposed

Steven: is this the only way to use this money?

Monsignor: If we went ahead and replaced an HVAC, this would be considered maintenance and by itself could not be funded by a capital campaign.

Mark: I'd like to hear from others from others about long-term needs and current day needs that aren't being met by donations.

Carmen: It makes sense to elevate our worship space and make an investment for our church, just like you would do for a home

Monsignor: If we removed some of the extra expenses (e.g. ceiling and artwork), this still will cost a lot: \$1 million for parking lots, \$1.5 church, \$500K for bathrooms

Steven: When was the last time that a capital campaign?

Monsignor: In 2008 a capital campaign was used to renovate the daily mass chapel, enlarge the Narthax & sacristy. This was between \$1 to 1.5M

Marianne: While I'm not opposed to using the money for a study, we should consider what is necessary for the building (e.g. HVAC) and what may be optional (e.g. artwork)

Steve & Will: do you look at this as a 10 year mortgage?

Monsignor: Yes. The campaign would raise money thru pledges that would be paid over 5 years. The idea would be to pay this in advance to avoid debt.

Lesly: I had a question about the study. Is it possible that the study will conclude it does not work?

Monsignor: The company we would hire would evaluate the giving capacity of our parish. This would have a tiered approach.

Monsignor: The third option is that I give back the check.

Mark: This is the potential to be seed money for a larger project. Right now, the parking lot renovation & HVAC replacement are expensive projects that will need to be done. Monsignor, can we go back to the Townwood project. Do you have any objections to the points that the financial council raised?

Monsignor: No, I think the financial council has very valid points.

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Mark: I can clarify because I was at this meeting. For an outreach project like Townwood, you would need someone to champion this project and you will need a sustained source of funding in order for it to be successful. If you go fast out of the gate it will likely fail.

Marianne: Monsignor can you clarify: why is it okay to use the financial gift for the Townwood project?

Monsignor: We would purchase a trailer, renovate it & find someone who runs the community center.

Marianne: what are the rules that makes it okay?

Monsignor: We could consider that this is a justice & charity project and therefore justify for this to not be taxed. You see we cannot use the financial gift to balance debts because we currently do not have debt. At this point we are getting enough funds so we are meeting all the needs that come to our door.

Monsignor: Another idea is that we could use these funds to go directly to the Haiti outreach ministry

Marianne: can you clarify the goals of a study?

Monsignor: A study would give us the giving capacity of our parishoners, the materials you would need to have the conversation with the parish including budget & architectural drawings

Mark: I will make an attempt for a consensus statement. We have a gift that we can use in a limited way. We have some level of dissonance or disagreement about raising money for a capital campaign that may go beyond using funds for some of the projects that are a necessity at the moment, especially since parishoners have been asked to increase funding by 14%, but if a renovation project were to happen it would be more theologically correct than what we have now & environmentally sound.

Steven: was the justice & peace minister part of the request for increased funding?

Monsignor: Justice & peace minister was something I talked about at every mass

Steven: maybe we should send another announcement

Monsignor: I do not want to always be asking for money. It would be a good idea, however, to give information about how the diocesan campaign is doing so far.

Mark: Are we ready to vote to request that the donation to be changed?

Monsignor: To clarify, I am asking you to give an opinion but not to vote specifically about this.

Marianne: Will we get to see the study? I am not sure about a capital campaign but I approve of the study. I am concerned about asking parishioners to dig deep in their pockets for a capital campaign when we still do not have a justice & peace minister

Monsignor: yes of course

Sarah: would you be able to bring up both ideas to the donor?

Monsignor: yes, I can

The majority of PC members voiced support of the study

VIII. Mark: I recommend that we defer our discussion of **Committee Updates & Future Objectives** to the March meeting.

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IX. Finance council updates:

Mark: the FC liaison (Robert) was supposed to be today. I attended the meeting and can give a report. The majority of the time was used to discuss this gift.

Steven: in addition the FC discussed that there will be an external audit

X. Pastor's notes

Monsignor:

1. Something I came aware of today Fr. James Martin to do Zoom call encouraging folks from LGBT community to participate in terms of giving feedback. This will be published through the Bulletin. They are reaching out to folks who are not attending church but are Catholic. This is a distinct session that is being run by the diocese.

2. We're going to be without a English speaking deacon for the next few months. Deacon Chris is "plugging a hole" at St. Mary's. Deacon Chris agreed to fill this position through the Easter season, so he should be back by Pentecost. Deacon Tom is on a leave of absence and discerning where his future will take him. Deacon Jose is stretched pretty thing already so will not be filling in for the English masses. We had a discussion about upcoming the Easter services: even though we're only supposed to have one mass, for Easter Vigil, holy Thurs mostly Spanish with some English & Easter vigil still up in the air history is more English than Spanish for vigil, but on Holy Thursday & Good Friday, the numbers are flipped, so I've opted to keep 2 masses for the schedule. Many more Anlgos coming in as catechumens

a. Mark: how many RCIA?

b. Msgr: 2 catechumen & 2 candidates, not sure how many children, 6-10 Spanish adults.

3. Msgr: RCIA is getting changed to the "Order of Christian Initiations for Adults"

4. Msgr: For the Synod on Synodality, I've been meeting with John, Marlena & Karen. We've been working together to make sure this gets done in an ordered way. We are on track to do this. The good thing to realize the limit for every question is 500 words.

Mark: I will coordinate with John to distribute the participants guide for this

XI. Open Forum

Steven: Do any PC members attend the Hispanic leadership committee?

Msgr: I told Hispanic committee that they should be on PC schedule at least 3x a year

Marissa: we try to meet every week if we can. Right now we're preparing for the food sharing for the Feb 2nd mass.

Steven: Are the meetings focused on details of events of the church or are the meeting primarily about "big picture" information like it is for pastoral council?

Marissa: both, I think

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Mark: Marissa can you please clarify who would be best to give the quarterly update? Jose Garcia?

Marissa: Jose Luis

Steven: What would we like to discuss with their group?

Mark: I think just starting a dialogue with the Hispanic leadership would be a good place to start

Monsignor (acknowledged that this is a good idea, citing): I know communication is an issue

Monsignor: I mentioned Mindy before in our prayer intentions. She ran out marriage prep in Spanish for over a decade.

PC members asked for clarification of EC positions. Sarah acknowledged that she is vice chair but would be willing to serve as transcriptionist during meetings, too, so that minutes could be completed in a more timely way.

Monsignor added: we could consider posting minutes as a "draft" so they are more timely

Mark: I would like to add an additional item to the end of our meetings called "Future Business." This is to allow for a place where things come up last minute and we didn't put it on the agenda, so we can bring them up in greater detail

Steven: does this mean we cannot bring this up at other times at the meeting?

Mark: It depends on the meeting. For me its sparked by the dialogue. Another thing to send out is "meeting takeaways."

XII. Closing

Closing prayer led by Monsignor

Meeting ended 9:02pm

Mark NS

Mark Nichols

Pastoral Council President

4/26/2022

Rev. Msgr. Walter E. Feany
April 26, 2022