

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, March 1, 2023

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Lauren Glass circulated a form to the PPC members and Corporators to complete with their names and addresses. The form is required for the application for the Knott Foundation grant to supplement the capital campaign for the structural repairs to the church.

Welcome and Open Forum:

Terry welcomed Sue Wilson as a guest to the meeting. Sue shared that while the PPC and Mission Council members are listed in the weekly bulletin, the roles of the two councils and how they interact are not clear to most parishioners. Sue also said that the minutes of the PPC meetings were previously published in the hard copy bulletin and inquired as to whether the minutes are published anywhere for parishioners.

Terry explained that the final minutes are sent to Cathy Nusbaum for posting on the SJCC web site. Gwen suggested that we post that the minutes are available on the web site. Also, Gwen added that there is no Mission Council presence on the web site.

Terry then explained that the role of the PPC is a consultative body to the pastor; not an implementor of programs. The Mission Council coordinates the ministries and staff. The Chair of the Mission Council attends PPC meetings. Terry used an agenda item below, Festival of St. Joseph the Worker on May 6, as an example of how the PPC and Mission Council interact. Terry added that the Parish Pastoral Plan is under the purview of the PPC to review and update the Plan as necessary.

Lauren added that she will discuss the issue of the minutes with Cathy Nusbaum.

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was a reflection on the Gospel for Sunday, March 5, 2023, (Matthew 17:1-9) on the Transfiguration. Terry read the Gospel and led the reflection.

Agenda:

1. Finance Commission Report. Nick Nutting led the discussion on the budget.

Summary of Actual versus Budget as of 12/31/2022: Revenue is down by \$88,000 for the first half of the year. Operating expenses were down by \$78,957 for the same period.

Offertory Overview: The offertory collections are 10.3% less than budgeted for the first half of the fiscal year and down 3.75% from last year. Because Christmas fell on a Sunday in 2022, the Christmas offertory collection (\$29,000) was \$11,000 less than the 5-year average for Christmas giving. Envelopes represent 43% of the offertory and EFT 40%. Lauren added that with the loose collection (i.e., not in an envelope), it is impossible to say how many households are represented in that portion of the offertory.

A question was raised about the offertory in relation to Mass attendance. It was pointed out that the weekly Mass attendance was averaging 1,072 as of 12/31/2022 versus a pre-covid average of 1,700. Discussion followed about ways to encourage more Mass attendees and those watching remotely to contribute to the collection.

Important Factors After 12/31: SJCC sold the parcel of land it owned on the south side of Piney Ridge Parkway which resulted in net proceeds of \$471,000.

SJCC is applying for a grant from the Knott Foundation to supplement the capital campaign for the structural repairs to the church. Although the application is for \$100,000, it is anticipated that the amount received will be less than that. A decision on the grant application is expected in May 2023. If approved, funds would be available in June 2023.

The total cost of the repair of the North Pillars (right-side of church) is \$380,000 and the Stained Glass is \$330,000.

The estimated cost of repairing the South Pillars could be as much as \$500,000.

A point was also raised that approximately \$300,000 has been received from the \$600,000 pledged in the capital campaign for the structural repairs and stained-glass windows. If no more pledges are received, this will not be enough to cover the total expenses of the pillar repairs and the stained-glass windows.

Key Next Steps:

Cash flow analysis and transfer enough from the IPLF-O account to meet the current expenses.

Compile and review requests for funds from the Jubilee Fund.

Other trends and analysis: (1) current giving and (2) attendance trends.

Nick concluded his presentation by saying that the Finance Commission will be meeting March 14, 2023, to discuss the key next steps.

A brief discussion followed on how SJCC can increase Mass attendance. Fr. John pointed out that average Sunday Mass attendance is increasing slightly to 1,190 each week. This was followed by a similarly brief discussion on current giving trends and related challenges. No conclusions were reached or final recommendations made on either issue.

Nick will provide another Finance Commission update at the May 3 PPC meeting.

2. Discernment Process. Terry pointed out that since the discernment process for new PPC members will occur in May, the PPC cannot wait until the May PPC meeting to deal with this issue. Terry will lead a sub-committee with Joselle and Rachel to handle the discernment process. Gwen or Chris will lead the discernment process for the Executive Team.

3. Festival of St. Joseph the Worker, May 6. Rachel reported that the Festival of St. Joseph has expanded to St. Joseph the Worker, Father and Carpenter. The daylong celebration will include multiple parts: [1] beginning with activities for children from 11:00am to 1:00pm; [2] building a 3-tiered St. Joseph altar from 4:00 to 5:00pm in the Chaminade Center; [3] a votive Mass celebrating the Feast of St Joseph the Worker from 5:00pm to 6:15; [4] following Mass, a procession with the statue of St. Joseph up to the Chaminade Center, at which there will be a Consecration Prayer to St. Joseph for those who participate in the 33-day consecration program (there will be an on-line class); [5] an Italian-based dinner from 6:30 to 8:00pm; and [6] concluding with a dance from 8:00 to 11:00pm with DJ Jake Miller.

Fr. John noted that this also kicks off a week of devotion to the Holy Eucharist and links the two together.

Volunteers are needed for the various Festival of St. Joseph the Worker activities. Terry encouraged all PPC members to volunteer.

Rachel added that it would be good if the PPC could donate one item for the festival and will keep the PPC informed about the donation process. Finally, Rachel reminded the PPC that this is a celebration of our Patron Saint and is free to all parishioners.

4. Discussion of “Big Quiet” Letters. A general discussion of the “Big Quiet” program (i.e., pastoral letters, work book, glossary, resources for readers, etc.) preceded the discussion of individual letters. The consensus was there are many more people in the parish who are dealing with these issues than we are aware of. Several suggestions were made relating to the need for each letter to [1] refer the reader to resources for more information on the topic covered, [2] give the reader a “call to action” to help the reader reflect on or live out the particular point being made in the letter, [3] tell parishioners that all people are welcome in our church regardless of their situations and personal struggles and [4] include a teaching of Jesus (i.e., what is the mind of Jesus) on the issue raised in each letter.

Following this general discussion, members of the PPC made suggestions, observations and editorial recommendations for letters 14 through 20. Letters 21 through 30 remain to be reviewed. A Focus Group representing a cross section of the parish has been started, and is meeting weekly, to review the letters and provide feedback.

Pastor’s Report:

Fr. John reiterated that finances are an issue. Also, he reported that the stained-glass windows will be arriving the week of March 6.

Round Table Discussion:

Terry gave a positive review of the movie *Jesus Revolution*. He shared that the film coincidentally deals with the theme of people who do not feel welcome in a church because of their differences or beliefs.

Attendance:

PPC Members: Fr. John Worgul, Terry Morse, Rachel Wandishin, Bob Geldmacher, Margaret Patrick, Joselle Ruddle, Mark Steinbrunner, Ernie Tucker

Corporators: Gwen Lilly, Chris Patrick (via Zoom)

Finance Commission: Nick Nutting, Rachael Rau

Staff: Lauren Glass

Guest: Susan Wilson