

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, December 6, 2023

This meeting replaced the meeting scheduled on November 8, 2023, which was postponed.

Open Forum: No issues were raised or announcements made during the Open Forum.

Opening Prayer: Rachel read the Gospel for Sunday, December 10, 2023 (Mark 1:1-8) and led the faith sharing. Several members shared their insights from the reading.

Changes to the PPC Executive Team:

Terry announced upcoming changes in the leadership of the PPC. Chris Patrick explained that in January he will begin a new phase in the deacon formation program which will require a part-time assignment in a to-be-determined ministry. Because of the demands on his time, he will be stepping away from his role as a Corporator of the parish. Fr. John has asked Terry to replace Chris as one of the parish Corporators. Therefore, Terry will no longer be a member or the Chairperson of the PPC. Fr. John asked Rachel to become the new PPC Chairperson and Mark to become the new Vice Chairperson. The new PPC Executive Team will be:

Rachel Wandishin, Chairperson
Mark Steinbrunner, Vice Chairperson
Ernie Tucker, Secretary

Report on “Bearing the Beams of Love”:

Fr. John reported that he is pleased so far with the “Bearing the Beams of Love” seminar series. Approximately 100 people signed up to participate (and get on-line access to the material) and about half attend regularly with some spouses trading off attending each week. Cathy Nusbaum reported about 460 hits on the “Beams” page on the web site and the “Beams” board has had 156 posts.

The consensus of PPC members who regularly attend the Thursday evening “Bearing the Beams of Love” sessions is that it has been extremely well received and no negative comments have been heard.

Mark asked if there has been any follow-up with the AOB regarding the “Bearing the Beams of Love” booklet. Fr. John reported that once we have completed this seminar series, he plans to rewrite the booklet and share it with the AOB.

Parish Pastoral Plan:

The PPC was asked to review the Parish Pastoral Plan. Fr. John asked the question “Can it be revised to be easier to understand and more inspiring, not just for parish leadership and staff, but also for the ministries and ideally the whole parish?” The goal is that the plan will help the Pastor, PPC, Mission Council, staff, various ministries, and the entire parish community grow in faith and develop and nurture missionary disciples so that we can better grow our parish and

minister to the entire Eldersburg community. Fr. John liked the three ideas of simple, efficient, and inspiring.

Mission Council:

Working with the Mission Council, the PPC was asked to investigate how the structure of the Mission Council could be adapted so that there is greater understanding by the parish leadership of the many ministries at SJCC and better synergy between the various ministries at the parish. The goal being that the various ministries and staff would more efficiently work together and help to achieve the very important goal of growing and nurturing missionary disciples throughout our parish community.

Fr. John suggested SJCC invite two members of the AOB Emmaus Teams to facilitate further examination of these issues. Emmaus Teams are part of the AOB's Office of Parish Renewal and, among other things, assist parishes with organizational health. He will contact the two team members who are assigned to SJCC and schedule a meeting. As a result, the PPC will:

1. Establish a subcommittee to look at the Parish Pastoral Plan and revise as necessary to make it more accessible to the various ministries operating within the church, and to make it more simple, efficient, and inspiring.
2. Meet with the Emmaus Team to discuss the organizational structure and seek their advice on changes (if any).

VIRTUS Training for All PPC Members:

All PPC members were asked to reach out to the parish office at sjccvirtus@saintjoseph.cc to determine their compliance status and to become up to date on their compliance.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. John announced that he plans to do a series of homilies during Lent walking the congregation through the Mass. He added that he hopes this will also explain changes going on in the Church.

Fr. John also reminded the PPC about the National Eucharistic Congress (Year of the Eucharist), July 17 – 21, 2023.

Round Table:

Terry asked about the Art of Accompaniment. Fr. John stated that Kim Flemming is keeping it going.

Terry reminded the PPC that the Radio Ministry will be on the agenda for the January meeting. Terry also brought up the financial status of the parish and that we need to make sure there is enough money coming in to support everything the parish hopes to accomplish. A brief discussion followed on the respective roles of the Finance Commission and the PPC in this matter. Gwen suggested that it would be good if the PPC addressed the issue.

Rachel reported that Breakfast with St. Nick was a success, but that we really need more volunteers for this event.

Jane suggested that if we as a parish get better organized, the fruit of this will be in achieving all the goals of the parish.

There were no other announcements during the Round Table.

Closing Prayer:

Fr. John led the closing prayer and concluded with a blessing of the PPC.

Attendance:

PPC Members: Fr. John Worgul, Terry Morse, Rachel Wandishin, Minta Davis, Jane Miller, Kathy Reid, Joselle Ruddle, Mark Steinbrunner, Ernie Tucker

Corporators: Gwen Lilly, Chris Patrick

Mission Council: Tony Gioio, Elena Hodgkiss, Lucy Lyles, Cathy Nusbaum, Tom Schwartz