

Joint Pastoral/Finance Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2022 6:30 pm Marian Hall

Attendance: Father Nathan, Dean Richland Center Deanery; Reverend Woody Pace, Diocese of La Crosse Vicar for Clergy/Director of Mission Office; Deacon Tony Shay; Pat Peterson, Cathy Poshephny, Phyllis Krause, Paul O'Rourke, Rhonda Kiedinger, Parker Moore, Bob Dickman and Joyce Humfeld.

Father Nathan opened the meeting with prayer.

Pat Peterson named as Pastoral Council Chair and Parker Moore named Vice Chair.

Joyce Humfeld requested input on fall dinner. Feedback recommended planning for dine-in with option to go to carry-out only if Covid-19 resurgence happens this fall. This event is the primary opportunity for parish members to work together annually.

Deacon Tony's celebration will be Sunday, May 15 with a catered meal in Marian Hall following the 10:30 mass. The weekend will be his Mass of Thanksgiving at each mass

Introductions were made.

Discussion held on plans for helping rectory occupants vacate the rectory. Rev. Woody will communicate with Diocesan lawyer, Jessica Kirschner, to provide counsel in writing letter to occupants. Goal will be to have moving day by June 7. Rhonda & Parker will assist by contacting family, checking on assistance from Coulee CAP & Catholic Charities for resources to take care of family needs and parish costs. Once vacated maintenance, cleaning and other building needs will be scheduled. Parker and Julie Moore offered use of their guest house for visiting pastors in the interim.

Deacon Tony Shay will forward Liturgical Director job description to Council members for better understanding of the position.

A family has requested funeral meal and use of church tables & chairs at their farm. Joyce Humfeld will let them know that food can be provided, and use of dining room is available, but request for tables and chairs is denied.

Further discussion on use of church kitchen, dining room and supplies was clarified by Rev. Woody shared reference to written guidance from the Diocese in Church Policy Handbook. It lists allowable use for parish activities and member events. Fran will be asked to help locate the handbook. Liability issues are addressed in it, and there are event insurance fees.

The Pastoral Council plans to meet monthly during this time of transition. Fr. Nathan will attend these meetings. The PCCW can meet without clergy present.

A request to replace the piano in the choir loft has been submitted to Finance Council. Bob Dickman has offered to donate needed funds. Discussion involved where in the church it should be placed. The new piano cannot go in the sanctuary of the church because it would be incorrect liturgically, per Fr. Woody and Fr. Nathan. More discussion will be held on this topic and need for a new sound system.

Ben Kimmet, the church maintenance worker, had googled ADA prices; and Rhonda Kiedinger was asked by Fr. Matt in the Finance Council meeting to go ahead with obtaining quotes from the original installer (La Crosse Glass) to have working ADA-compliant doors for church entrance and Marian Hall doors.

Members of the Financial Council will meet in June to review budget and financial statements in preparation for reporting to new pastor. Goal is to have budget with income that justifies expenses.

Pat shared comments from community members who felt very welcome at Ecumenical Service.

In other business: Rev. Woody reported that Fr. Matt Marshall's resignation has been accepted effective 4 May 2022. He understands that the abruptness of this change will affect parish members in many ways including sense of loss and lack of leadership. He received feedback including concerns about stress on priests and questions if parishes will be closing due to priest shortages. He shared that the Bishop has a goal of stability and security for parishes and wants to have next priest stay with parish at least six years. Currently 30% of Diocesan priests are international. He also mentioned that vocations now are commonly happening at college age with family the traditional encouragement less of a factor. The Catholic Church is increasing programming at the college level to encourage vocations. Priest changes will be announced by July 5. Fr. Nathan as Dean will oversee parishes – Viroqua and Coon Valley until new pastor arrives. Visiting pastors will cover weekend Masses.

Additional items reviewed included:

- 1) Building security: Codes will be changed on exterior keypad locks and locks rekeyed at both rectory and the church. Fran will be asked to assist with developing list of who has access to codes and having a signed agreement on use of codes.
- 2) It was clarified that parishioners can attend council meetings. The council may ask to have closed sessions to discuss needed topics.
- 3) The Synodality Report from the parish is due on June 15. Fr. Nathan will check to see if one has been submitted. Follow-up discussions will be held in regard to possible implementation of activities related to this study.
- 4) Diana Hernandez will be listed on bulletin as church Sacristan.
- 5) Ben will be painting new lines on both parking lots. Asphalt bids will be planned for next year.
- 6) Joyce would like to have Parish Potluck & Workday this summer. There will be a welcome dinner for new priest.

Rev. Woody ended the meeting with a prayer.

Next Pastoral Council meeting, June 1, 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Peterson.