

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**



October 16, 2024

In-Person

6:00 – p.m.

Pastoral Council in Attendance: Deb Steppe (Parish Director), Cory Anshus, Jackie Dombrowski, Denise Haussy, Terry Malloy, Pat McKay, Emerson Porter, Judeen Schulte, Jim Stamatakos, Donna Van Wynsberghe (Chair), Barb Webber, Christine Yatchak, Cathy Markwiese

Excused: Mary Alston, Lorie Skeff, Rebecca Porter

Commissioning of Council: Led by Denise Haussy

Opening Prayer: Jim Stamatakos led a prayer of thoughtful reflections on answers to prayer.

Parish Director's Report:

- **OctoberFest** was a smashing success: About 480 people attended the 4pm Polka Mass on Saturday; parents and children were dancing at the Mass; the artisans had many positive comments; there were many first time visitors to the Oktoberfest. The Rupena's chicken dinner was a huge success, as well as the hot dogs, brats, pulled pork and soup for feeding all the guests.
- **Fare Thee Well** event was held on Saturday, Sept 21. The event brought together several professionals who provide advice on end of life planning. About 50 people attended.
- **Help out priests:** with the addition of Fr. Joe Aufdermauer, there will be about 10 help out priests. Deb believes these 10 will provide the coverage we need for Masses.
- **New faces on staff:** Bill Goulding is our new deacon effective November 1. He is a gifted preacher; Deb looks forward to helping to discern with Bill what his ministry functions will be at OLOL. Patricia Fabian is our new Director of Administrative Services. Maryrose Wolf is training Patricia and serving as a resource and consultant.
- **Parking lot:** OLOL has hired an engineering firm to help negotiate with the City over the citation received for not having a permit to repave the parking lot (which the contractor said he has never needed in the eight years of doing this type of work).

Discussion of two agenda reflection questions:

1. Are we meeting the spiritual needs of the Parish and the Pastoral Council?

We are attracting people who believe we can meet their spiritual needs. Who is the we, what are spiritual needs, how do we know they are met? We have many options

for engagement and formation. It is not the Pastoral Council's job to meet the spiritual needs... Council is the chess masters, not the boots on the ground. How do we know we are meeting those needs...we are growing. Council is grounded in prayer, it is more than just "work", it is vocation. Book club, discipleship institute, programs, funerals-- these are available not just to parishioners but to the greater community. Where we suspect there is a gap, or we could do better, we dig in for more information, we are willing to try new things. Perhaps we could have New Parishioner welcome breakfasts.

2. Are our actions as Pastoral Council making the Council and Parish better disciples?

Listen to people who think differently than us...are we doing that deeply enough? Who is not here...who is missing? How can we reach out to them? How do we reach out to the young people? Are we praying enough as a Council? Perhaps breaking open the Word a bit more? Perhaps more socialization at each meeting or once a year. Ideas to add a roundtable agenda item for brainstorming/dreaming.

Unsung Disciples topics

Every Council member was tasked to bring three ideas for Unsung Disciples articles. Jim Stamatakos will compile a list of the ideas and bring it the next meeting.

Archdiocesan Parish Councils Congress: Deb and Donna will attend the Archdiocesan Parish Councils meeting on October 19, 2024.

Committee Reports:

- Social Justice Committee: Pat McKay reports there is a parishioner would like to hear the Our Father sung once in a while at Mass. OLOL will offer a prayer service November 4 at 6:30 pm before the election.
- Discipleship Institute – no report
- Liturgy – Advent liturgies are prepared and the committee is working on Lent and “dreaming” of new ways to present the Gospel.

A group photo was taken of the Council members at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2024, Room 3

Opening prayer for November meeting: Judeen

Dismissal Prayer: Deb

Respectfully submitted:

Cory Anshus

