

**SEAS Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting of Monday – February 28, 2022**  
**Mass at 7:00; Meeting at 7:30**

**MINUTES**

**Pastoral Council Goal 2021 – 2022:**

- ***The Pastoral Council will plan accordingly for a return to normal as COVID-19 restrictions improve or adjust if they tighten; and for a potential transition to becoming part of a cluster parish.***
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1. Attendance: Bob R, Jim F, Fr. G, John W, Terry P, Angie C, Jean M, Kathy H, Debbie R, Mark C, Ann K, Sharon C
2. Guests: Mary A, Bill P, Chris F, Lynn F, Janice G
3. Excused: Culver B, Jeanne L, Steve M, and Barb R
4. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS: Jim welcomed all members and guests to the meeting, stating there was a lot on the agenda, and we will do our best to keep the meeting moving along.
5. OPEN FORUM (Guests):
  - a) Mary A. regarding suggestion for a Parish Town Hall Meeting
    - a. Due to COVID people are feeling a disconnection from the Parish, the community, and their spiritual growth.
    - b. She is asking to schedule a meeting – title to be determined – Town Hall Meeting/Family Meeting – where people can come and talk about where they stand in their spiritual growth, sharing thoughts, ideas, and concerns.
    - c. Goal – to be “Living Stones” as how we want to be going forward. Our SEAS family has lost so much over the past two years with COVID.
    - d. Mary is willing to run the meeting. She will meet with Chris F. to discuss more details to be presented to Executive Committee either at their March or April Meeting.
      - i. Suggestions
        1. List of talking points – themes, questions
        2. Who should attend the meeting (i.e.: staff members, Pastoral Council leaders)?
        3. Once you get people talking the discussion will flow.
  - b) Bill P. regarding Proposal #23 from Social Ministry
    - a. Bill along with Social Ministry/Human Concerns would like to offer a presentation with the “Partners in Restorative Initiatives” group from Rochester. Dealing with building community and conflict resolution.
      - i. Date: Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 7-8:30PM.
      - ii. Open to SEAS and Nativity, a step towards working together in our clustering process along with other interested groups.
      - iii. No Cost to the parish – would like to advertise it as a Free Will offering donation to be given to the Partners in Restorative Initiatives.
      - iv. Presentation would be led by Andrew Prinzing, co -executive director. This group has over 20 years of history in offering this type of presentation.
      - v. This would benefit the parish, families with children of all ages, and the wider community.
      - vi. There would be bulletin insert/announcements, and Mass invites the weekends of March 19/20 and 26/27 with sign-ups in the Narthex.
      - vii. Lent is a good time to offer this as it leads to forgiveness.
    - b. Motion was made to accept Proposal #23 by John W, seconded by Kathy H and consensus was reached.
6. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS –
  - a. Approval of the November 2021 Pastoral Council minutes – John made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Debbie R – consensus was reached.
7. OLD BUSINESS:
  - a) Clustering transition update.

- a) Fr. McC has published that he is planning on retiring June 2023
- b) No further meetings have been planned at this point.
- b) Tabernacle update.
  - a) No updates on the arrival of the Tabernacle.
  - b) Father has contacted ME Burgess for an update – as of this evening he has not heard back.
- c) Synod question responses.
  - a) We had between 8-10 parishioners respond to the request for input.
  - b) Chris and Sharon worked for days to compile the responses into the required format by the Diocese.
    - a) Each response was limited to 1500 characters/spaces.
    - b) Responses were combined where they were alike, no changes were made to the intent of the response. Spelling and word flow were revised to improve readability.
    - c) Responses are due by the Diocese by the end of March.
    - d) Sharon C. made a motion to accept the responses as presented and to be submitted to the Diocese. Jean M seconded, and consensus was reached.
- d) Discussion on time and talent.
  - a) We have had about 105 Time and Talents returned.
  - b) Responses were low – many people seem to be waiting to see what happens with COVID before committing to volunteer.
  - c) All Committee Chairs/Ministries Leaders were given and emailed copies of their volunteer lists – which also included the volunteers from last year who didn't recommit. They are encouraged to reach out to all on the list to invite and welcome volunteers.
  - d) As in the past if we need volunteers for a specific purpose – we have usually had a good response – it might take some “shoulder tapping” and “personal invites” to get people back involved.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

- e) Rooftop cross from the railroad depot.
  - a) Father announced this past weekend that he was bringing back the Cross that is on top of the Railroad Depot. He told the parish the history of the 120-year-old cross and said that PC would decide how and where to display the cross once it is here.
  - b) Father mentioned that he is working with Randy C on retrieving the cross once the weather improves.
  - c) Ideas were discussed about where to best display and how to: i.e. Over the outside of the main entrance, in the Narthex along with the how to share the history of the cross.
  - d) Chris F shared that he and Lynn have been members of the parish almost since the beginning, along with being the chairperson of Liturgy in the beginning.
    - a) Staff had discussed the Cross at a previous Staff Meeting – and there were questions about why it was left on the Depot, the History of where the cross came from, and how to best honor/display the cross.
    - b) Chris contacted Fr. A. to learn more
      - a) Fr. A. shared the history of the cross at the old St. Bernard's.
      - b) He talked about his desire to leave the cross in its present location
        - a) To be part of the history of the Railroad Depot
        - b) Left as symbol that the building had been a place of worship
        - c) It was part of the history of the Town of Hamlin and the connection to all
        - d) Pastoral Council at the time chose to leave the cross there some 30 years ago.
        - e) Fr. A, acknowledges that he is no longer the Pastor, but that it is his wish to have cross remain on the Depot.
        - f) Fr. A. requested that we ask the parishioners for their input as he did in the past.
  - e) Father mentioned that Canon Law – Relegation of a Building – states that all religious items must be removed when the building is no longer a church.
  - f) There were many who felt that subject should have been brought to Council before the announcement to the Parish.
    - a) Conversation should have taken place – before the Parish was told it was coming back.
    - b) Members of Pastoral Council feel that things are being done without the conversation, and that as a Council we are to represent the Parish, and we are to speak for the members of the Parish family.
    - c) Without such conversations, members of Council don't feel that they are representing the parish as they should, thus the parish members are not being heard.
  - g) After the discussion and input from members and guests, the Council understands the reasoning behind bringing the cross to SEAS.
  - h) It was suggested that before we proceed with any changes that are done to the buildings and worship space, that part of the planning is run through Liturgy Committee. They have the Arts and Environment

- people as part of their committee.
- i) Motion was made to bring back the cross to SEAS and have further discussion with input from Liturgy as to the displaying was made by Terry P, seconded by Mark C. Consensus was reached.
- f) Proposal #22 from Social Ministry.
  - a) Kathy H presented Proposal #22 – changing the name of Social Ministry to Human Concerns. The name change was more in line with what the committee is – many hear Social Ministry and think it means social gatherings. As part of the clustering process our committee is working with Nativity’s committee which is called Human Concerns. There are many common areas and common goals that Nativity and SEAS can work together on.
    - a) “We can both collect backpacks and school supplies – and help our communities – working together for the common goal.
  - b) Motion was made by Debbie R to approve Proposal #22 and change the name to HUMAN CONCERNS. Motion was seconded by Sharon C and consensus was reached.

**9. MONTHLY COMMITTEE/STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:** Minutes were distributed for both January and February, Motions to accept and seconded include both reports.

- Parish Life Jeanne L
  - Jeanne was excused from the meeting and there has been no activity to report.
  - Note: The Coffee Hours were a big success and enjoyed by everyone who attended. People were happy to gather and have a chance to chat with their fellow parishioners. A free will offering basket was set up on Sunday and \$64 was donated. Only cost to SEAS was the orange juice and coffee, all baked goods were donated by volunteer bakers from Time and Talent.
- Executive Bob R
  - Bob deferred to the minutes, Jim Flanagan made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Kathy H and consensus was reached.
- Social Ministry Kathy H
  - Kathy deferred to the minutes, with an apology for the delay in getting the February minutes out. Paper copies were distributed before the meeting began. Debbie R made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by John W and consensus was reached.
- Faith Formation Sharon C
  - Sharon deferred to the minutes. Ann K made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Angie C and consensus was reached.
- Facilities John W
  - John W deferred to the minutes. Sharon C made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob R and consensus was reached.
- Finance Council Debbie R
  - Debbie deferred to the minutes.
  - The weekend of March 5/6 Debbie will talk at both Masses to let the Parish know our CMA Status – we are just under \$10,000 short at this time
  - Repairs to the Rectory have been accomplished, painting and replacement of the toilet.
  - Looking at the 2022-2023 budget – Facilities will be looking at the cost to install heat tape to the roof edges to help eliminate the ice buildup that we had this year, along with the leaks in the two small bathrooms. They will obtain estimates this spring.
  - Terry P made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Father G and consensus was reached.
- Liturgy Barb R
  - Barb R was excused – minutes were distributed. (Kathy H and Chris F were available for any questions) Bob R made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by John W and consensus was reached.

**10. PASTORAL LEADER COMMENTS:**

- a. Lenten Zoom presentation – Tuesday evenings during Lent. St. Paul’s letter to the Romans.
  - a. Invite was emailed out to parishioners, and a request for publication in Nativity’s bulletin was sent.
  - b. Those interested are to email the office and the Zoom link will be sent to them.
- b. Painting of the Rectory – Father appreciates the volunteers who painted the rectory while he was away. He has issued a thank you in the bulletin.
- c. Cluster Update and Tabernacle Update was addressed above.
  - a. Once we have a date for the return of the tabernacle – Father would like to invite Bishop Matano to attend.
- d. Stations of the cross – there was some confusion regarding Zoom presentation of Stations, we haven’t done so in the past. Father will offer Stations after the Friday 5:30 Masses during Lent.

- e. Terry P asked about Living Stations of the Cross – that is still on hold due to COVID and the number of volunteers needed and the time for practice. Hopefully it can return in 2023.

**11. OPEN FORUM FOR MEMBERS:**

- a. John L has offered to repair the damage to the parking lot on the Bayley Hall side from the raised blacktop and the plowing. He will look at it when the weather is right for repair and says the repair will be done at no charge to the Parish – thank you John L!

**12. CLOSING PRAYER:** Jim

Next Meeting is Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Angie C is responsible for closing prayer.

Minutes submitted by Sharon C.