

Meeting Minutes – St. John the Baptist Parish Pastoral Council – October 23, 2023

Present: Father Alan Wierzba (Pastor), Patty Myszka (Parish Finance Council Representative), Nancy Hackel (Evangelization Coordinator), Bonnie Nenstiel, Amy Thout, Elizabeth King, Dave Bielmeier and Jack Knetter

1. The meeting opened with a prayer led by Father Alan.
2. Motion to approve minutes of May 1, 2023, meeting made by Patty. Seconded by Nancy and approved by vote.
3. Michelle Hafferman resigned as Education Committee Representative to the Pastoral Council. Father Alan will appoint a new member from the Education Committee.
4. Linda Mroczenski resigned as secretary of the Pastoral Council. Jack Knetter will assume the Secretary role.
5. St. John's School News
 - a. A new cook has been hired for the school.
 - b. Trunk 'R' Treat will take place October 29, 2023 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. Father expects around 400 children. Any additional help would be appreciated.
 - c. A teacher is needed to work with the 4-year-olds.
 - d. A long-term substitute will be needed beginning in December for a teacher going on maternity leave.
 - e. Prep work for the new playground is complete. Just waiting for the delivery and installation of the new playground equipment. Fencing options are being considered for the playground area.

6. Further discussion took place regarding the following mission statement.

"Saint John the Baptist Parish is a growing Catholic faith community whose members seek to live and share a Eucharistic love of Jesus Christ that is centered in prayer, Adoration, Reconciliation, education and community service."

Amy commented that after researching mission statements from other parishes, she was amazed by how much these mission statements varied from parish to parish. Bonnie stated that she thought ours 'is concise compared to some others. Amy made a motion to approve the mission statement as written. The motion was seconded by Jack and approved by vote.

7. Father is assembling information on the 125th Celebration planning and will send something out in the coming weeks.
8. Updates on Parish Pastoral Activities:
 - a. Youth Group - Nancy said the potato and taco bar fundraiser was a success. Approximately 600 people were served. This is the Youth Group's largest fundraiser of the year. Leaf raking went well. Three yards were raked. Next year they may consider expanding it to two Saturdays. The Father Daughter Dance was also successful with participation from neighboring parishes. Another Father Daughter

Dance is planned for February 17 of 2024. Jesu Vesperi (formerly Family Fun Night) will take place October 30, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the St. John's Dining Hall. Some activities being considered for next year are: Pilgrimage for Life, The Answer (The Traveling Eucharist).

- b. Grief Support Group – The group did not meet in fall, but Patti and Linda attended a meeting on The Internal Worlds of Grieving Families by Dr. Janice Nadeau in Marshfield.
 - c. Technology – Father walked us through some of the pages of the new website. Although it is a work in progress, it is easy to navigate and has great features including an interactive calendar, links to St. John's School and Holy Family parish, The Diocese of La Crosse, links for donations and many others. The parish is looking at using Flock Note, a secure email program. Cost for at least the first year will be covered by the Diocese.
 - d. Evangelization Update:
 - i. CCD –
 - ii. Fr. Alan's Bible Study has resumed on Sunday afternoons. However, there will be no Bible study on October 30 due to Trunk 'R' Treat.
 - iii. Children's Liturgy of the Word has resumed and is going well. It would be nice to have one more helper.
 - iv. '33 Days is complete with 16 people finishing the retreat.
 - e. PCCW and Holy Name Men - Envelopes will be going out this week for the Christmas Benefit. Dorrie
 - f. Parish Homebound Ministry - Dori Martyn continues this work along with the parish social media work.
9. What are you hearing? Father asked council members if they have received any feedback from parishioners about our church and school.
- a. Dave commented that he had not heard anything bad, only good things
 - b. Elizabeth said she hears good comments about the Children's Liturgy of the Word and Father Alan's Sermons. She asked if our financial situation is improving. Nancy indicated that the envelopes have stayed about the same but plate collection is up. Father added that we are still usually short of the weekly amount needed for parish operations as indicated in the bulletin.
 - c. Amy hears good things about the school and administration.
 - d. Bonnie said that people tell her how Father Alan's homilies really hit home.
 - e. Patti is happy to see the dining hall getting used more. She also commented that the new cooler and freezer are nice.
 - f. Jack said he has not received any feedback from parishioners.
10. Father stated that the next meeting will be held on January 29, 2024. The meeting was adjourned with a blessing.