

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING 2-15-2024**

Meeting was convened at 6:35 p.m. in the rectory.

Present – Father Joe, John Riordan, Matthew Lee-Own, Michael Griffin, Katie Pomroy, Ray Hufnagel, Adam White

Opening Prayer – Matthew delivered the opening prayer: “[A Lawyer’s Prayer](#)” to St. Thomas More. Matthew shared a personal story of how this prayer helped him draw strength and motivation on his path to becoming an attorney especially during study for the bar exam.

Ray shared a prayer for a return to the faith for parishioners who have been away from the Church for awhile particularly during the Lenten season.

Prayer Leaders for Upcoming Meetings – Prayer leaders for the upcoming meetings were confirmed:

- March: Ray Hufnagel
- April: Katie Pomroy
- May: Tony Ribaud

Minutes – Minutes of the 1-18-2024 PPC meeting were reviewed and approved without correction.

Announcements –

- Matthew provided an update on the status of the Ministry Renewal Project (renewed brochure for back of church)
 - o Currently in the process of contacting the remaining ministry leaders to update them with the Assumption Chicago branded email addresses.
 - o Once all ministries are contacted, we will propose a revision to the ministry brochure to contain the updated email addresses

Book Discussion [15 mins] – Discussion was opened into Chapters 12, 13 & 14 of Divine Renovation: Beyond the Parish.

- Katie opened the discussion by noting similarities between the organizational and analysis techniques discussed in the book and the corporate world.
- John commented that many of the concepts from the book are of general application for both the Church and the wider world.

- Michael drew a comparison between Divine Renovation: Beyond the Parish and the book the PPC read last year. Noted that the Church seemed to be moving from an “I” to a “We” model. Renewed focus on community and discussing more about group relationship with God as opposed to a personal one.
- Katie inquired whether Fr. Joe has witnessed a shift towards people being more involved in the Church over his time as a Pastor.
- Fr. Joe noted that this varies from place to place and depends a lot on who is running things.
- Discussion was opened into the chart on pg. 210 that depicted different models of Parish Councils.
 - Comment that our Council has a good mix of personality types
- Fr. Joe mentioned that as a Council we need to keep in mind that we are clearing items from the agenda (putting them into the hands of capable ministries) as opposed to only receiving reports on progress during the PPC meetings. Want to avoid the PPC turning into a supervisory body.
 - This is partly why no standing committees were established in the Bylaws
- Fr. Joe discussed the importance of being able to access different people’s viewpoints and the flexibility it gives a Pastor in not having to be the spokesperson for everything.

PPC Bylaws

- A short discussion was opened into the PPC Bylaws with all in attendance agreeing that no major revision was needed but that we should continue to keep the mission statement of the bylaws in our minds as we serve on the Council.

Old Business [20 minutes]

- **Hallow App – Katie Pomroy**
 - Katie provided an update on the status of the Hallow App
 - Katie has written a bulletin post to encourage utilization of the Hallow App amongst Parishioners.
 - Katie suggested that the PPC members signup for the free trial of Hallow.
 - It will cost about \$1k for the Parish to register for the app
 - Funds for this may be derived from “Teach Who Christ Is” fund

- Next steps are to draft up revised bulletin announcement for Hallow
- **Hospitality Sunday Schedule – Matthew Lee-Own**
 - Matthew provided update on the Hospitality Sunday ministry that is being managed by Danielle Gabriel and Matthew Lee-Own.
 - Currently have ministries setup for the March, April and May events
- **Website Update – Adam White**
 - Adam White showed media updates to the website including photos of the AYA and KoC events along with Saturday Sandwiches event.
 - PPC decided to publicize the email address for the council so we can receive feedback to the address – still need to determine who on the council will receive the emails
 - Bios for PPC members are now on the website, PPC indicated a desire to have our photographs accompany the bios to help parishioners put a face to a name
- **Update on Couples Event for 2024 – Fr. Joe provided an update on the status of the Couples & Newlyweds event –**
 - April 13th is the proposed date for the Couples Event
 - Cathy Cahill has compiled a list of prospective couples who would be invited
 - Currently seeking another volunteer for this ministry
- **Discussion of Suggestion Box was deferred to the March meeting**
- **Discussion of Welcome Committee for Sept / Oct event deferred to the March meeting**

New Business [5 minutes]

- **Ministry for Older Parishioners – Matthew suggested the formation of a ministry for older parishioners in a similar style to what AYA does for young adults in 20s and 30s.**
 - Will need a leader for this ministry if there is sustained interest in it
- **Archdiocese Synod Update – Fr. Joe**
 - Fr. Joe discussed that the Holy Father has put out an appeal for additional responses to the Synod on Synodality that was held in Rome last year.
 - Our Parish Council submitted a report to the original meeting and Archdiocese has come back to ask for another round of feedback

- Time will be set aside at the March meeting to address this item and prepare a response as feedback is requested by end of March.

Closing Prayer – Father Joe delivered the closing prayer.