**PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**June 24, 2025**

**Present:** Fr. John, Fr. Christian, Fr. Homero, Jason Nord, Christine Brinkman, Jason Messmer, Richard Kunkel, Dan Fritch, Tara Dreblow, Lynn Scheu, Jane Fischer, Tammy Mehringer, Seminarian Brett Wilkey

**Absent:** Fr. Keith, Michele Schoenbachler, Nathan Bradford, Irma Alanis, Andrew Luke, Lynne Bohnert

The 7:00 pm meeting was called to order by Jason Nord.

**Opening Prayer –** Fr. John led us in prayer.

Jason Messmer made a motion to approve the April 2025 Parish Council minutes (since not Parish Council meeting in May). Christine Brinkman made a second motion. All were in favor of approval.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Guadalupe Statue – Landscaping Around Statue – Fr. John
   1. No Update. May need to do a fundraiser this Fall (Aug/Sept)…possibly making steaks
2. Job Posting for Organist/Music Ministry Update – Fr. John
   1. Melaine Baker will be starting Aug 1. Plays organ/piano/guitar and brings a lot of energy
3. Bilingual Masses on Feast Days (Corpus Christi) – June 21st
   1. Might want to spread Bilingual Masses throughout the year (concentration March-June)
4. Church Mosaics – Fr John  
    a. Scaffolding goes up July 9th and expects to be completed on third mosaic by Aug 15th. Gold inlays  
    will also be added to stone cross & confessionals (about 5 places).  
    b. Matt Weyer is still looking at a fanning-type lighting to bring out the colors.
5. Catherine from Bosco – Fr. John
   1. Checking with Jeremy (w/ junior high position—working with Holy Trinity)…not sure if posted yet. This position will report directly to Fr. John
   2. Catherine will give Parish Council update in Aug/Sept on status of Bosco

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Review/Discussion/Approval of Budget 2025-2026 – Tammy/Dan

* Dan mentioned that Tammy does almost all the budget now & reports to the finance committee.
* Filling three new positions we did not have in 2024 (ex. Music Director, position for communications- who will help Pam Freyberger)
* Dividends/Interest are dropping down from 4.95% down to 4.25% (Rainy Day Funds)
* Biggest Expense…Holy Trinity (due to increases they have been holding off on/number of students from St. Joseph’s parish have increased as well)
* Utilities are up over last year/Grounds budget is also higher than last year (weather is more extreme)
* Dan brought out the we have more transparency w/ money going to Holy Trinity’s w/ the individuals representing St. Joe’s (after question came up with increase funds going to Holy Trinity)…we now have 110+ students from St. Joseph’s parish in school at Holy Trinity.  
    
  \*\*Lynn Scheu Made Motion to Approve 2025-26 Budget & Seconded by Jason Messmer…Vote was taken and was approved by all present

1. Parish Council New Members – Jason  
   - Several candidates were suggested for Parish Council. Candidates will be contacted to accept   
    nomination for Parish Council. Brief bio on why nominated should be provided  
   - Parish Council Election Dates (July 26/27 & Aug 2/3 weekends) with Election the weekend of   
    Aug 9/10).   
   - Structure for candidate’s bio for parish will be provided (to give structure for content)
2. Review Parish Survey Feedbacks – Fr. John  
   - Three takeaways from each Parish Council member which stood  
    -Slow traffic at communion, healthy environment in gathering area, more participation (singing),   
    Stewardship, Gluten Free Hosts, & one negative….about Spanish mass were mentioned  
   - Discussions on not spreading parishioners too thin with so much offered as well as bridging Hispanic and   
    English parts of communities over time were discussed
3. Catholic Jubilee “Pilgrims of Hope” -Fr. Christian/Fr. Homero  
    - Pilgrimage to Montreal…Had to cancel pilgrimage due to lack of interest.  
    - Pilgrimage to Lady Guadalupe…Five people signed up. May combine with another parish. Discussion   
    tomorrow (will know more then)
4. Open Discussion on Parish Council Items- Fr. Christian  
    - Noise Level-Better understanding after talking with 12 parents. Need discretion & careful persuasion

when discussing “noise” in church. Best way is to observe & use message on “reverence” in the church.   
 Fr. Christian may craft a message to think about the talking in the church itself.  
 - Fr. Christian thought we should do something special for July 4, 2026 celebration..Table this item  
 - Fr. John- looking for contractor for center doors (durability). Getting another quote on the church clock  
 -Rectory – Did some remodeling (for new priest). Possibly getting new rectory (looking at where on   
 campus). Sent letter to Bishop. Current Rectory built in 1963 for $210,000 (10,000 sq ft)  
 -Fr. John – Days of Service…Need more Participation (Adopt-a-spot…Parish landscaping this Fall)  
 -Renting the Parish Center…No more than 4 hours is recommended (too many issues for long events

6. Update on Food Packing Event (July 19th) – Lynn   
 -70,000 meals will be packed/less than $1,000 has yet to been collected (fully funded)  
 -Men’s Club will be setting up Friday afternoon. Fruit/Donuts available for morning session/food for   
 afternoon will also be available. Many volunteers are needed.

7. Upcoming Events / Dates:

* + VBS @ St. Joseph Parish – June 17th – 20th
  + Rock Your Faith – July 6th – 9th
  + Food Packaging Event – July 19th (All Hands on Deck)
  + Blood Drive – July 27th
  + Young adult mass cookout – July 28th
  + Strassenfest – July 31st – Aug 3rd (Parade on Sunday…Walkers Needed)
  + Memorial Mass – Aug 10th
  + Holy Day – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mother – Aug 15th
  + Quebec Pilgrimage – Oct 18th – 24th
  + Guadalupe Pilgrimage – Nov 9th – 15th
  + Vacations:  
     -Father John – July 23rd – July 30th

**Jane Fischer was recognized and given an award for her evangelistic work & effort on the Mother Théodore Guérin Chapel by the Sisters of Providence in Terre Haute. Jane is so very deserving of this award!! Congratulations Jane!  
  
  
  
Commission Updates**: (top points from each commission lasting 5 minutes or less)

Finance – Dan

* Completion of the 2025-2026 budget. Reviewed with Parish Council to vote on approval (during June meeting)

Justice & Charity (formerly Evangelization & Outreach) – Lynn

* Clothing Closet – in the bulletin (needs business clothes for job interviews)
* DCCM-Strassenfest Booth (needs volunteers)
* July 19th – Food Packing Event

Evangelization & Catechesis (formerly Spiritual Life) – Andrew/Nathan

* Confirmation moving to 5th Grade in 5 years
* Catechism 101 will start back up in the fall
* Bible Studies with Fr. Keith – offered twice a week seasonally.

Community Life – Michele

* Strassenfest parade again in August. Need walkers. Trying to get churches/Holy Trinity together
* Father’s Day breakfast.

Liturgy and prayer – Lynne Bohnert

* Our Team is always looking for new members
* Decorating Team

Latino – Irma/Fr. Homero

* Aug 30th – Retreat for women in Ferdinand this year (over 100 women @ last years retreat)
* Retreat for youth in Washington (several parishes)

**CLOSING PRAYER – Fr. Christian**

MEMBERS: Jason Nord, Jason Messmer, Christine Brinkman, Richard Kunkel, Tara Dreblow, Jane Fischer

COMMISSION CHAIRS: Dan Fritch, Lynn Scheu, Michele Schoenbachler, Andrew Luke, Irma Alanis, Lynne Bohnert

STAFF MEMBERS: Fr. John Brosmer, Fr. Homero Rodriguez, Fr. Christian Raab, Fr. Keith Hart, Pam Freyberger, Tammy Mehringer, Tracie Ihle, Courtney Schmidt, Deacon Keith

**\*\* Tuesday, July 22nd @ 7 PM will be the next meeting \*\***