

St. Joseph Pastoral & Mission Council  
Meeting Agenda  
January 12, 2023, 7PM  
Arrupe Room

**Opening Prayer and Check-In**

**Approval of Minutes** November minutes - [https://www.stjoseph\\_parish.org/files/1194.pdf](https://www.stjoseph_parish.org/files/1194.pdf)

**Reports**

Action Items – "Partners in the Gospel" initiative - Fr Chris Cartwright

- Archdiocesan "parish clustering" program/initiative; 2023 -2025
- Opportunity to reimagine participation in parish life/community
- Guarantees a pastor & assoc. priest
- Parish clusters must determine:
  - Where to worship
  - What it means to be a 'community'
- This follows the efforts of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- St Joseph & St Patrick parishes are exempt from this initiative, since our communities more or less have already undergone a version of this process.
  - The archdiocese has learned from our experience and endeavors to facilitate a more supportive experience for the rest of the archdiocese's parishes

Open Forum – New Process for Council Meetings – Fr Chris Cartwright

- "We have no lack of things to occupy our time"
- Emphasis on the importance of ensuring that we listen to each other; council members to each other, but also listening to the larger St Joe's community and parishioners
- How can we ensure that we're listening and acting on what we hear? How can we "walk with and behind the flock?" Reminder of Chris' idea that the PMC can/should act like a group of pastors for the parish.
- Possibilities discussed:

- opening up some/all PMC meetings to the whole parish, for any who wish to attend
- Organizing "neighborhood meetings", smaller listening sessions or more structured meetings within parish neighborhoods; "neighborhood" can be either literal or virtual, and self-selecting
- PMC members "loitering with intent" at/after Masses, church functions, etc
- Open question: in what other ways can the PMC and Parish leadership gather input from the parish?
- Emphasis on a need for pastoral engagement
- Universal Catholic parish problem: addressing and answering "what it means to belong to a parish community? What does it ask of us?"

#### Open Forum – "The #1 concern for this parish"

- "Gap in ministry" for some groups within the parish
  - Particular missing need: continuing adult faith formation
  - Mention of Ignatian Contemplative Action Teams, facilitating a "leaven faith" for groups within the parish
- "Lots of talk, but no action" – how is the PMC meant to act on its ideation and discussion?
  - In relation to existing programs and services, as well as expanding parish community impact and outreach
- Lack of inter-group connection among parishioners
  - Notetaker's/Editor's note: "St Joe's has cliques"

#### Open Forum – "What do we wish to accomplish?"

- Resources for ongoing faith formation
- Plan for getting people back to Mass
  - "Creating a space where faith can grow"
  - "There are more dark spaces than we realized"
- Demonstrate that our parish is listening to the community
  - Take action locally and separately toward the Synod
  - Focus on awareness of desire of women's diaconate
  - "We need to be bolder"
  - St Joe's has a fear of change (re: change in tradition, "the way things were", etc)
- Bolster capacity/bandwidth to administer hospitality ministry

## **New Business**

- **Anticipated vacancies on the council** – We need to set up a committee to begin the process to determine the vacancies on the council for next year and start surfacing names for replacement.
- **Response to the Synod** – implementing the Open Space Technology methodology to respond locally; more information to come.
- **Discerning Deacons** – it's happening! Upcoming meeting with the head of the Seattle diaconate, more information to follow.

## **Closing Prayer and Intentions**

- Intentions for the repose of the souls of Patricia Moore-Brigham and Bill Hood