

Saint Edwards Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/23/2023

Attendees: (Present Excused)

Father Robert Chinnapan , Deacon Jeff Hofacker , Kim Goffard , Tim Pitsch , Patrick Berg ,
Merle Verhagen , JoAnn Krueger , Darlene Hansen

Opening Prayer was led by Kim Goffard

Previous Meeting Minutes were approved by the council

Lectio Divina was led by Darlene, Merle, and Kim.

Pastor's Report

Father Robert was not in attendance so, there was not report for this meeting.

Deacon's Report

Deacon Jeff was not in attendance so, there was not report for this meeting.

Agenda Topics:

175th Anniversary Mass

Pat Coonen is helping with coordination of the 175th mass celebration and the activities following mass. Pat sent Kim an email and asked for input from the council for what should be done after mass. Deacon Jeff thought that there should be a breakfast or pot luck after mass and we should invite all former religious (there are four individuals thought to be surviving). Father indicated the we need a team who will be responsible to plan and execute the after-mass activities. Kim will request to get something put in the announcements in an upcoming weekend indicating the need for volunteers to help plan celebratory activities after the 175th mass.

Pictorial Directory Committee

JoAnn has not yet been able to connect with Pat Coonen in regards to the Pictorial Directory. During council discussions, a photography company was suggested by Darlene that may be able to help with taking photos and creation the directory. The company will be invited to the next meeting so that the council can better understand the photo services available. Due to timing and the amount of effort required to take photos and publish the directory, it is not expected that it would be published until sometime during the spring of 2024. Darlene also indicated that she would help Joann with coordination of the activities. Kim will also ask to have something added to the upcoming announcements requesting volunteers to support this committee.

Pastoral Letter- Follow up

The council were all asked to read the pastoral letter prior to this meeting so the team would be prepared to discuss how this letter could be rolled out within the parish. Fr. Robert asked Kim offline if we should have study group similar to bible study but using the pastoral letter. The council spent some time brainstorming this approach. Some of the ideas discussed were as follows:

- To gain the best attendance, conduct the study group in fall. Groups that have met during the summer have been known to have low attendance rates.

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- The target audience for the study group would be applicable to all adults however, would be open to anyone who is interested in attending.
- The Alpha study groups were well attended. It may be good to follow a similar approach for this study group (study groups with a meal served).
- The study would take place at the parish because it is centered on the church.
- We should consider offering the opportunity for teenage youth to obtain service hours. This could include babysitting, help serve meals, and cleanup during study group times.
- If there is space, the study group activity could be done on Wednesday nights while parents have their children at religious education.

The remainder of the meeting was spent by the council reviewing and brainstorming how strong the signs are for a Eucharistic culture within our parish. This was intended to bring out what we are doing well and what potential opportunities exist that could be improved.

Four specific signs of a strong Eucharistic culture in a parish: Unpack each of these realities within St. Edward Parish. Consider how the Eucharist is celebrated and revered at the Parish level; what's going well and what can be improved?	What we DO WELL	What we COULD do
Reverence for the Eucharist		
Tabernacle location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perfect • It is front and center and visible throughout the church • The Tabernacle is in a great location front and center. • Good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should be lit • Inquire about adding additional lighting
Genuflection (Catechesis on)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't think people know the difference between genuflection and bowing • As a Parish we do this well • In talking with people in the parish, I believe we do have this. • Ok • The school kids do a great job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the congregation (People may not know that they should genuflect or why). • Bow instead of genuflect for those with physical problems • I see a lot of people not bowing or genuflecting as they pass the back of church leaving Mass. Granted, you don't want to trip anyone... <p>-----</p> <p>->Potential educational opportunity. Group needs education. Father Alar videos (E.g. The Mass Explained).</p>

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		F/U needed: Ask Fr. Robert and Dcn. Jeff about this. Good opportunity for learning.
A culture of love and respect for Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This parish has an incredible support of Love Good We do this well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are we extending this beyond our parish walls? Outreach: Tractor pulls, Fish Fry, we have the money...
Adoration Availability:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think we do this once a month after the Friday morning mass (not sure on this) Good Hard for working folks, but St. Pius has a 24-hr. chapel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set times before certain masses for adoration. Allow regular access to members for perpetual adoration. Maybe have a time when those working would be able to attend. <p>.....</p> <p>More catechesis needed. Potentially before Mass?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Can lay people conduct adoration with training?</p>
A sense of authentic Christian hospitality		
What's it like to walk in as a new person?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think the ushers do a great job of welcoming. Welcoming and casual I asked this question of a friend who came to mass. He said it seemed like everyone knew each other and listening to the conversations of others it felt like a family atmosphere. Good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not know who to go to or where to look for guidance. If we see someone we do not recognize introduce ourselves and make them feel welcome. Engage new people in conversation as they enter. As usher/greeter we could do a better job. <p>.....</p> <p>More signage (bathrooms), Welcome kiosk. EVERYONE say hi. New member donut time each month/quarter.</p>
Are Mass times user friendly for families w/kids and working adults? What are our options, if any?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With only 1 priest with 2 parishes, I think we do a great job. They are working well, as we are sharing Father with St. Nick's. Good Pretty good considering we share a priest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could use a 6:30 Mass 1 night/week. I have heard some say they would like 4pm on Saturday but understand that with sharing Father it is hard to do. <p>*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would be nice to have an evening daily Mass 1/week

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<p>Are parish office hours convenient for members?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • Most things can be handled over the phone so I think the office hours are ok. • Maybe have one later day for those who are working. Just not sure how much this would be used, (would it be worth it). • For parish members probably 	<p>Discussed that potentially there could be people who need later evening hours but most things can be done over the phone or worked out.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>**Kiosk would be so helpful</p>
<p>Opportunities for furthering an adult faith life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the book and movie store at church • There are many group opportunities. • We have been doing a great job with this. There always seems to be something going on. • The OLC should help with even more opportunities for this. • Good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more social /casual activities to engage & invite people to listen and learn <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help from the diocese, how to start groups, what to choose • Links to self-paced / web opportunities.
<p>How do we invite others to become more involved? *** Priority ***</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of mouth • Keep putting the message out there in the bulletin and at mass. • We publish in bulletin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing campaign. • Central location to learn /know about volunteer opportunities. • No strings attached trial period. • Reduce the level of responsibility / expectations on individual volunteers (spread it out or focus on the critical few). • Opportunities could be put in correspondence with the school families as well. Just another opportunity to get others involved that may not know what is available. • Call people to ask if they want to help in certain areas. They may be more likely to say yes with personal contact. <p>.....</p> <p>Priority to hire a marketing person</p>

Cultivation of a deeper sense of sacred music		
<p>Liturgies are joyful with song</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fantastic choir • We do great with this. I was at another church a few weeks ago and what we have is truly amazing. • Good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask people for input as to which songs they would like to hear. •

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<p>Song/lyrics appropriate for the liturgical season</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do a great job with this as well. • Good 	
<p>Opportunities for prayer services accompanied by beautiful music/songs as expression of prayer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above we really are lucky to have such dedicated people to make this happen each week. • Good 	
Excellent preaching		
<p>Proclaiming the Word with conviction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were talking with a few people after mass on Sunday at how the Homily was so fitting for that week. Both Deacon and Father do a great job. • Good 	
<p>Encourage members to prepare for Mass by reading and praying the Gospel ahead of Mass. Worship committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly have the printout on the table by the Bulletin for people to take. • Good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put the readings on the screens before mass • Maybe this could be mentioned at mass and/or put in the bulletin. • Share gospel reading on screen before mass. • Encourage people to read/bring their bible to Mass. Give out ribbon bookmarks to assist. Normalize bringing your bible. • Place the books back in the pews ☐ • Give bibles at baptism/1st Comm/etc. Lifelong ones.
<p>Affirming the priest/deacon when the message resonates w/in one's heart; embrace a spirit of generosity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Homily on a single point that helps one think, connect and focus on for the week. • We should do this more often I know we were going to let Father know how the Homily this last week was very fitting. I had conversations with some people after mass and they thought the same thing. • The Compass • Bring your tractor to Mass

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Priorities Identified:

1. Hire a marketing person. This is a goal of PMP and will kick staff many things.
2. Place the books back in the pews to encourage use (easily accomplished)
3. Give bibles at baptism/1st Comm/etc. Lifelong ones (not youth/kids)
4. Re-visit welcome kiosk
5. Bathroom signage (hospitality)
6. Additional lighting for tabernacle (enhance the Holy nature of it)
7. Inquire about opportunities for lay-led adoration.
8. Catechesis on genuflection/bowing (good opportunity for video-based learning)

Legend
Doing well
Some improvement would help
Priority identified

Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer was led by Joann

Additional Council Member

Council members were asked to start thinking about new individuals who could be on the council next year. Additionally, we will need to find a new Chair because Kim cannot Chair the council more than 2 years in a row (based on council rules).

The meeting was closed by a prayer led by Deacon Jeff

Upcoming Meetings:

- 5/25/23 @ 6:30 PM

Reference:

The council identified the following individuals to be the liaison between the parish council and the committees:

Committee	Parish Council Liaison
Worship / Music	Father Robert, Deacon Jeff
Fish Fry	JoAnn Krueger
Harvest Moon	Patrick Berg
Home and School	Deacon Jeff
Tracker Pull	Tim Pitsch
Buildings and Grounds	Deacon Jeff
Cemetery	Deacon Jeff
Finance Council	Father Robert, Deacon Jeff
175 TH Anniversary	Darleen Hansen