

**St. Leo Church**  
**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**May 22, 2022**  
**Meeting Minutes:**

**Note:** Due to Covid concerns, this meeting was held in person with a videoconference option for those unable to attend in person.

**Present:** Noah Baskett, Mike Maggert, Sr. Pat Michalek, Vern Harkins, Marcia Matthaei, Luis Blanco-Doring and Elias Puentes S.J. were present in person, and. Eugena Buena-Douglas and Melissa Monroe were present online. Kathy Vance, Jeffry Grice, Mary Ann Seiwerath and Luis Blanco- Doring were absent.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by council vice-chair Noah Baskett. An acknowledgment that St. Leo Parish sits on the sovereign land of the Puyallup people was read.

**Opening prayer:** Opening prayer was presented by Eugena Buena-Douglas. She read a beautiful prayer to St. Kateri Tekawitha and reflections followed.

Reports were provided about activities of each Parish Commission.

Eugena reported regarding recent activities of the **Kateri Circle**. She reported that Father Pat had recently tested positive for Covid. He experienced some symptoms but is recovering well and hopes to be able to celebrate Sunday Mass this weekend. They are planning a special blessing for fathers on Father's Day and also planning to acknowledge and celebrate their graduates. They also planning ways to honor Father Kevin and Father Xavier before they leave St. Leo.:

**Liturgy Commission.** Father Elias provided an update regarding the Liturgy Commission. Discussions are continuing as to how best to integrate the Filipino Community into one of the weekend parish masses. The option of a special monthly Mass for this community has been discussed. Consideration of the need for a special Mass and the demands that this would place upon parish staff and parish resources, is being balanced with a periodic celebration of the parish's multicultural communities at one of the regularly scheduled weekend Masses is being reviewed.

**Facilities commission.** The Facilities Commission minutes were reviewed, but in the absence of liaison Mary Ann nothing further was discussed.

**Faith Formation Commission.** Mike Maggert commented on the commission's work on planning the reorganization of its ministries with new staff on the horizon. More will be reported on that as the plans solidify. A group has been meeting and discussing a book about Abraham The Father of Three Faiths, with about twenty participants. Seven people have signed up for OCIA. SEEL is ongoing. The commission is discussing how to make more people aware and think of St. Leo as a Jesuit Parish, and what that means.

**Food Connection.** Noah reported that the food connection is experiencing an increased and the cost of groceries and products. The number of people being served is increasing. Traditional grocery suppliers are having less supplies to donate. Individual giving is increasing but government grants are decreasing. A staff retreat was held recently with ideas provided as to how to enhance the work and methods of service of the Food Connection.

**Bellarmino.** Vern reported on the recent focus and priority of Bellarmine High School to address the affordability challenge of the school for people of all economic backgrounds. Tuition now exceeds \$17,000 a year. Bellarmine is committed to a goal of making the school affordable to all families who would like their children to receive the benefit of a Bellarmine education, regardless of cost. Approximately 42% of Bellarmine students receive tuition assistance totaling approximately \$2 million dollars each year, provided by a combination of endowment funds as well as annual fundraising efforts. The school is currently working on an endowment campaign, to significantly increase the school's endowment for the purpose of generating a greater and more reliable source of tuition assistance. The school's annual auction has focused its "Fund a Need"

auction item on tuition assistance. Approximately \$450,000 was raised at the auction a few weeks ago that was specifically dedicated to annual tuition assistance.

**Stewardship Commission.** The minutes of the commission were reviewed. A working session is taking place to create an action plan for the next few years.

**Pastoral Care Commission.** Marcia reported on the recent work of this commission. Volunteers fill many different roles in supporting parish funerals, healthcare, retirement community masses and hospitality following weekend masses a few times a month. Social activities of this commission's work were negatively impacted by Covid, but the commission is now becoming more active. A fundraising concert was recently held in the BIX with the goal of raising funds to assist the Afghan family. Approximately \$9000 was raised for which they were very thankful.

**Social Justice Commission.** Sr. Pat reported on the work of this commission which involves the work of many individuals on different causes and justice needs.. She discussed the challenges of connecting parishioners to the causes and ministries of the social Justice commission

**Pastoral Council Elections.** Vern reported on the current status of recruiting parishioners were willing to have their names placed in nomination for election to the pastoral Council. Elections will take place in June. Several people have agreed to run and additional work is ongoing to secure further candidates.

**Social Media Report.** Noah reported on research he has done regarding the use of social media at St. Leo and methods to ensure it fulfills its intended purpose in a healthy, productive and supportive way. He is exploring available sources of guidance on the identified purpose of social media, the creation of the proper tone for a healthy environment with appropriate rules and the need for fundamental moderation. Further work and discussion on this topic will continue.

**Pastor's Report.** Father Elias reported on upcoming changes in Jesuit staffing at St. Leo and Sacred Heart. Father Xavier and Kather Kevin will be leaving in June. Father Perry Petrich SJ will be spending time in Tacoma in July and August with family and will be able to assist with parish liturgies during that time. Bellarmine priests may also help out. Father Phil Burroughs SJ, recently retired President of Holy Cross College, will return to the northwest to St. Leo to begin his ministry here in August. He is a Seattle native and Seattle Prep graduate, with family in the area. He will bring many talents that will greatly benefit St. Leo and Sacred Heart, and we will be fortunate to have him here. There is also the possibility of third Jesuit priest coming to work in the two parishes. Elias hopes to report more on that soon.

Elias reported that Jack Peterson and Colleen Mulligan together with other staff are working on the draft of a short-term parish plan, utilizing information developed during the Synod and recent Parish Town Hall meeting. The hope is for the draft of a plan to be available by September. Elias also indicated that a budget presentation will be made to the council at the June meeting.

**The meeting closed with the following prayer and was adjourned at 8:30 PM**

Closing prayer

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life*

*and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

**Next Meeting: May 24, 2022.**

**Respectfully Submitted: Vern Harkins Secretary**

**New addition: Joke of the Month:**

Laughter unites us. Funny things help us get through the humdrum of life. Without humor this would be a lot harder. With that in mind:

“Jesus was standing over the woman caught in adultery and challenged the crowd that “He who is without sin, cast the first stone.” Suddenly, a rock hits the back of his head. Jesus turns and exclaims, “Mom!”