

**St. Leo Church
Pastoral Council Meeting
April 25, 2023
Meeting Minutes:**

Present: Noah Baskett, Sr. Pat Michalek, Fr. Elias Puentes S.J., Fr. Phil Boroughs S.J. Mike Bianchi, Tom Trunk, Pat Toohey, Eugena Buena-Douglas, Marcia Matthei and Melissa Monroe were present in person. Vern Harkins was present remotely through Teams. Jeffrey Grice was absent.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM by council chair Noah Baskett. Noah began by acknowledging that we gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup people where they make their home and speak the Twulshootseed language.

Opening Prayer/Faith Sharing:

Opening prayer was deferred until the second part of the meeting dealing with the Jesuits West Apostolic Planning process.

Commission/Committee Discussion: Discussion covered several items:

Stewardship Commission: At the Pastoral Council's request, the commission discussed how the commission can help in securing needed volunteers to serve on each of the Parish's Commissions, as well as on the Pastoral Council. Each one of the Parish Commissions needs new members. The Ministry Fair that takes place in the fall helps with this, but the Commissions need new members sooner. The parish calendar year ends in June. New members should be on Commissions and ready to contribute at the beginning of the next calendar year. Options were discussed to address this. The Commission also discussed the benefits of having a meeting of the chairs of all Parish Commissions to review this issue as well.

Social Justice Commission: Social action display boards have been created by the Commission and are on display in the hospitality area. Tear offs are connected to the boards for people who are looking for more information and/or expressing interest in serving on the Commission. The Commission discussed a meeting that Father Elias is planning for the parish, to be held in the coming months. The meeting will be open to all members of the parish community and will provide an opportunity to discuss the status of planning for changes that are on the horizon in the archdiocese that will impact all churches.

Pastoral Care Commission: An updated report was provided regarding the issues facing the Afghan family, dealing with jobs, cost-of-living challenges, and long-term visa uncertainty.

Facilities Commission: The Commission is requesting a template to be used for the preparation of Commission meeting minutes. Noah has developed a template and will make it available to all Commissions for use in preparing their minutes. It will be helpful for all involved in parish work to see consistency in reporting Commission minutes. The Commission members recently did a group walk around the campus to

discuss a number of facilities projects. Progress is being made on the replacement of the church roof. A new lighting plan is being prepared to address the interior light fixtures in the church. This will lead to a plan that can be provided to contractors for bids on replacement. Security issues impacting the entire campus were discussed, in conjunction with the safety and security plan that has recently been provided to St. Leo, Catholic Community Services and Nativity House. Recommendations have been made in the plan that are being reviewed by the staff of each of the three entities leading towards an agreed-upon response within the budgetary resources available.

Faith Formation: The St. Leo Book Club has 14 sign ups and is looking for more participants. They will begin meeting in May at the church each Wednesday evening for 3 weeks, reading Timothy Egan's "Pilgrimage to Eternity." The pilgrimage movie, "The Way", will be shown the last Wednesday in May at the Blue Mouse Theater.

Business/Pastor's Report:

Father Elias is preparing a letter to be published in the parish bulletin that will provide updated information to parish members regarding the roof replacement, other capital needs, safety and security issues, parish staffing and other issues. Adriana is being hired into a full-time position, that will involve her continuing work in Faith Formation as well as supporting the parish in other areas. Rick Samyn will oversee facilities and grounds and is working on a plan for Social Services so that he can assist St. Leo with facilities and grounds. Efforts are still being made to hire a replacement for Pat Keeley who is planning to retire soon.

A report was given regarding the upcoming parish elections. Several nominations have been received to fill three positions on the Council. The election committee will be contacting each to verify their interest, understand the talents that they would bring to the Council and answer any questions they may have. The committee will recommend six names to be placed on the ballot to fill the three positions. The election will take place in early June.

Jesuit West Apostolic Planning:

The Council next spent an hour engaged in reflection and discussion regarding Part II of the Apostolic Planning Process of the Province. Following an opening prayer, the discussion focused on council members' reflections, discussion and sharing of thoughts in response to a series of questions posed by the Province regarding changes on the horizon. This discussion by the council will lead to preparation of a "Spiritual Conversation Report" to be sent to the Province on behalf of St. Leo Parish. Similar reports will be sent in by all other entities in the Province involved in Province work.

Closing Prayer: Marcia Matthei led the Council in prayer to close the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next Meeting: May 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Vern Harkins Secretary