

ST LEO PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 24, 2024

Members Present In-Person: Sr Pat Michalek, Emily Ignacio, Sarah Templin, Heather Paez, Vern Harkins, Mike Bianchi, Tom Trunk, John Landy, Allison Scanlin and Deacon Tom O’Loughlin were present.

Members Present Virtually: Eugena Buena-Douglas

Members Excused: Fr Michael Rademacher was attending a dinner with the Bishop and all priests from the Deanery.

Members Absent:

Guest Present Virtually: Kevin Lovejoy (delayed)

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

The meeting opened with the land acknowledgment, “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.”

An opening prayer was led by Sarah.

1. Topic: Parish Events, Deacon Tom

Summary of Discussion:

Parish Family Liaison Discussion: The processes are underway, with some administrative changes having been made for personnel serving St. Leo as well as some serving both St. Leo and St. Charles. The appointment of a Parish Family Advisory Group with representatives from both parishes will happen in the next few months.

Feedback re First Meet-n-Greet and Parish Berry Feast: Deacon Tom as well as other council members described these two events. The first meet-n-greet was attended by approximately 20 parish members. Each in attendance was asked to introduce themselves and to describe their hopes and aspirations for the parish. People reflected about the long history of the parish with the Jesuits and expressed hope for the future of the parish moving forward. The Berry Feast was very well attended with 200 to 300 people. It was a great community event, enjoyed by those in attendance and inspired the hope for additional community events to bring the parish together.

Upcoming Parish Celebrations for the Feast of St. Leo the Great for November 9-10 and for the anniversary of the establishment of St. Leo the Great Parish were briefly discussed. Parish staff is still in the planning stage for these events. The Council suggested that celebrating the establishment of the parish, as the first Catholic parish in Tacoma should include a presentation on the history of the parish from then until now. Deacon Tom volunteered to work on this project.

Deacon Tom reported that in the past Father Elias went to the L'Arche community once a month to offer mass. In his absence, Deacon Tom will go there once a month for a Communion service and will also investigate whether a priest can be found to offer mass there periodically for the community.

Decision/Action: Parish Staff for planning

Responsibility for Follow-up: Deacon Tom and Parish Staff

2. Topic: Partners in the Gospel Transition (Kevin)

Summary of Discussion: Overview of the Plan for the Next few Months: Kevin Lovejoy was unfortunately delayed in attending the meeting. A brief discussion took place with the decision to delay further discussion until next month.

Appointment of the Parish Family Advisory Group: as stated previously, this group has not yet been established but will be established in the next few months.

The Council spent a considerable amount of time discussing what its role will be as the transition process moves forward as well as when a Parish family advisory group is ultimately appointed. Council members clearly stated their desire to continue to be an involved advisory resource for our pastor, Father Michael. This role is described in the parish bylaws and charter, as well as in archdiocesan documents. Council members understand the many responsibilities that Father Michael has as pastor of two parishes and wants to be an involved resource to assist him. Council members recognize their role and responsibilities in representing parish members and parish commissions. In the important decisions involving both the parish and the work of parish commissions that Father Michael and parish staff will make, council members want to fulfill their role as the ears and voices of both parish members and commissions, and to be advisors to both the pastor and staff on important decisions.

Decision/Action: Follow-up next month with further discussion.

Responsibility for Follow-up: Kevin Lovejoy, Council Chair Sister Pat and the Council.

3. Topic: Parish Commissions: Sister Pat reminded council members, that in their role as liaisons to the parish commissions, that they should encourage the person taking minutes during commission meetings, to use the format for minutes sent out previously, that concludes by describing "issues, questions or concerns to be brought to the parish council", and to submit their minutes to Angelie no later than the 15th of each month. This will allow the minutes to be sent to the council in a timely manner in advance of the Council meeting.

Commission Reports:

Summary of Discussion:

Facilities: The apartment properties near the parish are in the process of being sold. CCS is helping to relocate the existing tenants. It is unclear to the facilities commission how the proceeds from the sale will be utilized. The Facilities Commission is working on an adjustment to the parish sign on Yakima as well as to an additional sign on the corner of the Church building near 13th and Yakima. New fencing has gone up between the Church and CCS enhancing the protection of vehicles. Additional temporary fencing repairs are needed in a few areas and are being addressed.

Faith Formation: Registration continues for First Communion. A parent meeting will be held soon. A new staff person responsible for faith formation will be hired to replace Adriana who has been moved into a new administrative position where she will be serving both St. Leo and St. Charles. Emily has started a rosary group in conjunction with daily masses. Deacon Tom reported that adult formation through OCIA has 11 to 12 adults participating. Bill Orange has become a new member of this group. Tom reported that a Bellarmine Ignatian Evening for adults has scheduled 3 events at Bellarmine, with the first on October 8 and others to follow in January and March. Parish members are invited to attend and more information about this will be in the bulletin.

Food Connection: Father Michael recently had a meeting and tour of Food Connection for him to learn more about its work and operations. The new Jesuit volunteer serving at the Food connection is providing great service. The great work of manager Dawn Whitman has also been recognized.

Kateri Circle: Plans are being made for the celebration of the feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in October. The group is working on the election of new officers. The group is also making plans to have several members attend the Tekakwitha Conference. The group also had a question for the council on the method for bringing Communion to homebound members.

Liturgy: Cyra Benedict resigned from the Council and as liaison to the Liturgy Commission because of time demands. The council thanked her for her service. Tom Trunk has agreed to become the new liaison to the Liturgy Commission. In her new parish role, Adriana is also becoming the chair of the Liturgy Commission. The commission is working on plans for the annual ministry fair in October. Father Marc will preside over the Blessing of the Animals service on October 4 and the Parish Stewardship Commitment.

Pastoral Care: Father Michael's installation mass is planned for 10:00 AM at St. Charles on October 20. Bishop Schuster will be presiding. A Meet and Greet dinner with Father Michael is scheduled in the BIX for November 16 following the 5:00 PM mass. There will be a potluck style dinner in conjunction with this. There is a need for a new tribunal advocate for St. Leo. St. Charles apparently has five advocates, and an inquiry will be made to see if one of them can assist at St. Leo. The need for an update to the parish directory continues. Father Michael has encouraged work to continue on this. Volunteers will begin coordinating this soon. A new ministry is being explored, referred to

as Caring for the Caregiver. The first meeting is planned for Wednesday, October 30. A community outreach and education specialist from Pierce County will be speaking to those in attendance with follow-up meetings planned for the last Wednesday of each month in November and January. Father Marc will serve as the new staff liaison to the commission and because of his schedule, meetings will be shifted to the first Thursday of each month.

Stewardship: The commission has reviewed a Stewardship brochure template from the Archdiocese that covers all aspects of time, talent and treasure. During the upcoming year the brochure will be reviewed and adapted for use at St. Leo. The commission is planning the annual ministry fair for October.

Decision/Action:

Responsibility for Follow-up:

Closing Prayer. A closing prayer was offered with reflections by council members. In

Next Meeting:

Date: October 22, 2024, 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Vern Harkins, Secretary