

**St. Joan of Arc
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016**

In Attendance: Brian Deiling, Sr. Eileen, Alexis Horstman, Michael Milunic, Pat Mooney, Andrea Neves, John Phillippy, Martha Rupert, Fr. Sahd, Fr. Al Sceski, Diane Sheehan, Chuck Stickler, Crystal Wright, Carol Yakstis

Absent: Pete Bowman, Tom DeAngelis, Karen Willey

Opening Prayer

Fr. Al opened the meeting with a reading from the Gospel of John followed by a reflection on mirroring Christ's life and death to our own.

Agenda Items

Parish Pastoral Council Officer Elections for FY'17

J. Phillippy stated that the diocesan guidelines note annual elections for the officer roles. He thanked all for the nominations submitted to him for the council officer positions. The following are the nominations:

President: T. DeAngelis, J. Phillippy

Vice President: B. Deiling, K. Willey

Secretary: M. Milunic, M. Rupert

T. DeAngelis respectfully declined the nomination for President (via email to J. Phillippy). B. Deiling is willing to decline the nomination and defer to K. Willey for the position of Vice President. Both M. Milunic and M. Rupert accepted the nomination for Secretary. J. Phillippy proposed the following: for FY'17, J. Phillippy to continue to serve as President, K. Willey to assume Vice President position and M. Rupert to continue to serve as Secretary. For FY'18, the plan would be for K. Willey to assume the role of President, M. Milunic to assume the role of Secretary with the Vice President role to be filled. J. Phillippy requested a vote for Pastoral Council approval via a "show of hands". All Pastoral Council members present voted to approve the nominations for officer roles for FY'17 and the plan for the officer roles for FY'18.

Fr. Al suggested that the officers' term be three (3) years as was his experience in other parishes. This should be considered for future councils.

Facilities Planning

Fr. Al updated the council on various facilities plans/proposals. The new convent (Rosanovitch house) should be finished and ready for the sisters to move in by the end of April 2016. Fr. Al reviewed a previous study completed by the parish. This proposal would convert the current SJA school cafeteria into a parish social hall with the ability to rent the space for non-parish related functions (i.e. bridal/baby showers, small wedding receptions, etc.) A new school cafeteria would be constructed and connected to the current gymnasium on the East side. The potential would be for a two (2) story structure (above ground) with the cafeteria on the lower level and classrooms or storage on the upper level. With this proposal, a new two (2) story school (above ground) could be located on the current school footprint. This would enable the school classroom/office/gymnasium/cafeteria space to be contained in a secure format and allow the current parish office space for other use.

The facilities plans/proposals are: 1) new convent (house renovation) - underway, 2) parish office/rooms (convent renovation) - start upon completion of house renovation, 3) parish social hall/current
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school cafeteria renovation, new school cafeteria - future, 4) school - future. As Fr. Al has noted previously, future facility plans are not “cast in stone”, however, now is the time to begin having this conversation within the parish.

In a few short years, SJA will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the parish. The cornerstone was placed (original church on Chocolate Avenue) on August 15, 1920. Completion of a parish social hall (as noted above) by that time would be ideal.

New Parishioner Support

P. Mooney reminded Pastoral Council that the New Parishioner Welcome Reception will be held in the rectory on Saturday, April 9, 2016 after the 5:15pm Mass. Members of Pastoral Council are invited to attend to welcome new parishioners.

Open Discussion

M. Milunic noted a lack of reverence during Mass when those late to Mass either remain standing in the back or continue to be seated during the scripture readings. He suggested that those who wish to be seated do so between the readings at the direction of the ushers. P. Mooney commented that whatever recommendation is made, that it should be communicated in the bulletin and the parish social media outlets. Fr. Sahd was asked to address this with the Liturgy Committee.

C. Yakstis commented that it would be beneficial to have more people involved with bringing the gifts to the altar during the weekend Masses. Recommendations included: 1) A volunteer would contact a family member of the Mass intention designate for interest in participating, 2) Establish a “Volunteer Spot” website (similar to that used for Festival volunteer management) for parishioners to “sign up” to participate. Fr. Sahd was asked to address this with the Liturgy Committee.

The Liturgy and Worship and Faith and Evangelization Commissions remain without a chair/co-chair. J. Phillipy and M. Rupert will continue to dialogue with Deacon Mortel on providing the Goals and Objectives templates to the Community Life and Stewardship and Development Commissions for review. Fr. Al would appreciate a meeting with the commissions to further understand the process and offer assistance where needed. Pastoral Council members were invited to attend the Pastoral Care & Outreach Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2016 in the SJA School Library.

M. Rupert noted that the March 13, 2016 edition of Our Sunday Visitor included an article noting that parishes should “proceed with caution” pertaining to the Girl Scouts of America organization as some of their current efforts may not be in line with Catholic teaching. Sr. Eileen commented that the SJA Girls Scouts leadership had reviewed the policies a few years ago and determined that nothing was contrary to church teaching. Fr. Al noted that SJA would follow the direction given by the diocese and that any one with a concern about the Girl Scouts of America organization may contact the Bishop’s Office.

Next Meeting

Date: May 17, 2016
Time: 7pm
Place: SJA School Library

Fr. Sahd closed the meeting with a prayer.