

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting
July 20, 2022

Present were:

Fr. Brian Eilers (Pastor)	Leanne Southerland	Donna Hanus
Fr. Will Rooney (Assoc. Pastor)	Matt Rice	Michael Alexander
Al Flores (Chair)	Anna Damian	Lorian Dusek
Lis Soto (Secretary)	Dennis Hoffman	Christina Robertson
Donnie Victorick	Taylor Schroll	

Guests:

Brian Baudoin, Ablaze - Local Mission Coordinator, Bryan, TX
Truely Nguyen, Ablaze - Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry, St. Joseph

Absent:

none

Opening Prayer led by Father Brian 6:07 p.m. All were invited to offer petitions.

Ministry Presentation

Brian Baudoin and Truely Nguyen presented about Ablaze Youth Ministry programs for 6th-12th grade youth from our parish. Summarizing the past year at St. Joseph's, they described the different ways that they engage families to bring youth to Christ:

- Discipleship groups in homes,
- Young Apostles (leadership training),
- Beyond Q&A,
- Reach nights (for inviting friends),
- Retreats and events,
- Core team training, and
- Opportunities for parent involvement.

At each gathering they try to show what Living "Life with Christ" looks like.

Future goals include

- reaching more youth to help them gain identity as a child of God and
- giving them more opportunities to receive sacraments.

Aug. 14th will kick off the next school year with a parent meeting at 7pm. There was some discussion on how to advertise and promote Ablaze events and get youth involved in other ministries, such as ushering and lecturing. There was discussion about integrating Alpha into St. Joseph's youth ministry activities.

Fr. Will Rooney introduced himself and shared his background. He grew up locally in the B/CS area and served in Austin for 2 years before coming to St. Joseph.

Strategic Thinking

Seven of our parishioners joined the 600 people who attended the Divine Renovation Conference this week at St. Ann Catholic Parish in Coppell, TX. Michael A. reported on highlights, including:

1. We must invite the Holy Spirit even more into our Pastoral Council and parish - and continue to make more space to be guided.
2. Evangelization must be primary in our parish.
3. To continue our parish mission, we should continue to develop and unleash leaders.

Father Will pondered the challenge of equipping and feeding the disciple-makers (fishermen) while seeking disciples (casting nets for the fish). The objective is for our parishioners to continue to learn to engage with others and ask, so that others have the opportunity to say, "Yes, I want to follow Jesus for the rest of my life." Then how do you form smaller community groups inside this big parish to keep all on the discipleship path?

Pastoral update by Father Brian Eilers

Father Brian shared his thoughts from the Divine Renovation Conference. He clarified that he relies on the Pastoral Council to bring to him the things that need improvement at our parish. Then we should sort and solve problems together. He should not tell us solutions. He also expressed that he would like the parish ministry leaders to be more united with the Pastoral Council goals. He asked us to pray and discern how to bring more ministry leaders into "The Great Commission" of bringing souls to Christ and the vision of our parish (Becoming a place where people can meet, know, love, and share Christ. Several ideas were discussed. The process of moving ministries toward the mission of "sharing Christ" will continue to be rolled out through Alpha and through relationships.

Other Business

Question:

What program comes after Foundations? Father Brian suggested that we listen and ask questions to help disciples discern if they should move into service, or leadership, or continue in small groups like Quads or Bible Study small groups. Do they need more formation or are they ready to feed others? Or maybe both at the same time? He warned about small groups that stay exclusive forever and never invite new people nor form leaders. An important part of our Mission Statement: "To Meet, Know, Live, and **Share** Christ", is to stay intentional about inviting others into a personal relationship with our Lord. Programs need to benefit the participants and the parish.

Closing Prayer led by Father Will.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wed. Aug 17th, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lis Soto, Secretary