

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 03/24/2025 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

Council Members: Fr. Fred, Dan, Lisa, Mike, Leigh, Wendy, Lynne, Barry

Absent: Fr. Ryan, Bob-President, Deb, Jim

Minutes: Leslie

Opening prayer: Fr. Fred led the prayer followed with reflection among the members.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Parish Council Minutes from 2024 are being uploaded on the web site. The minutes from February 17, 2025 were approved by Lisa; Dan seconded it.

Planning the Calendar for 2025: Fr. Fred and Council members discussed specific events planned during Lent and Easter as well as the spring season. During the April 6<sup>th</sup> weekend, 400 crosses from the Holy Land will be available for parishioners to support the people in the Holy Land with a free will offering. The Appreciation Dinner on May 2<sup>nd</sup> is an upcoming event to prepare for. Leigh asked if we could consider having the Notre Dame 2025 Baccalaureate Mass held at St. Bernard's this year. Council members provided feedback regarding Bishop Wall's retreat which has been very positive. The suggestion to provide video-taped sessions of a retreat after the conclusion of the retreat on St. Bernard's web-site, to support families with children who cannot attend a retreat in the future due to family responsibilities, was discussed. Due to St. Bernard's parish membership steadily increasing our parking lot availability for attending Masses is becoming more of a challenge. For example, the 11:00 Mass is packed with families with an abundance of children. The parishioners attending the 9:00 Mass are socializing after Mass in greater numbers (a good thing) and as a consequence fewer parking spaces are available for the 11:00 Mass attendees. Some options discussed were to provide a bus to transport parishioners with their vehicles parked at a distance or a valet service.

Evangelization/Discipleship - Divine Intimacy – Divine Intimacy/Spiritual, Friendship/Witness (Win/Build/Send): Dan reported that 48 people have signed up to participate in Christ in Our Neighborhood, (CION). They are working on developing schedules to form the groups planning to meet. One suggestion was to have an opportunity for daily Mass attendees to meet after Mass for an hour in the parish Hall. Dan will keep in touch with Joyce Coronel who may provide another workshop in the future.

Fr. Fred shared Fr. Ryan's work with teens (Youth outreach). Fr. Ryan has been meeting with youth who have been sharing their reflections on passages they cover in the bible during the meetings. These sessions with Fr. Ryan are going well. Fr. Ryan's "Strength for the Journey" classes continue to be well received.

Fr. Fred shared that he would like to get something going for young families or couples. Leigh asked if it were possible to get something going at St. Bernard's for marriage preparation, like a "Pre-Cana" marriage preparation program.

Finance Administration update: Campaign and Rectory Update: Fr. Fred is waiting for city to approve everything submitted. It appears due to changing personnel the process to approve our rectory is taking longer than expected. The CDA 2025 – "Hope does not Disappoint" campaign is going well. The mosaic for the confessional door for Padre Pio being completed and now plans are proceeding to provide a mosaic for the other confessional door in honor of St. John Vianney.

Other Items: Mike provided positive feedback from parishioners regarding the chants and music provided at Mass. This is the last council meeting Mike will attend as his three-year term has come to a close. He shared his gratitude for being able to serve on the council.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Fred ended the meeting with a prayer.

Upcoming Council Meetings: April 28<sup>th</sup>, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Submitted by: Leslie Arnison, recording secretary