

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2025

Attendees: Fr. Mike Jendrek, Deacon Doug, Deacon Moise, Elizabeth Brownlee, Bernadine Crosby, Paul Dallavalle, Steve Harmel, Rick Keegan, Jenny Lagana, Ken Schmidt, Andy Stroup.

Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike Jendrek

Discussion Agenda Items:

a. Budget issues – documents prepared January 15, 2025

- Documents were distributed to the council shortly before the January meeting. Last week HFCC received approximately \$62,000 from FEMA as well as funds from the state of Maryland to upgrade security on the parish campus. The budget for this fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) is now balanced.
- A council member expressed concern about the “Faith Direct” program used by the parish. The program costs the parish nearly \$10,000 annually which is a substantial cost. The current “Faith Direct” is also to be replaced by a new program. The additional work required of parishioners to enroll in the new version of “Faith Direct” might cause a reduction in the number of people using “Faith Direct.” The impact of a change is not known.

b. New expenditures – church nave, mass schedule sign

- An advisor from AOB did a thorough check of the HFCC campus. The purpose was to inform Fr. Mike of potential problems in the church nave, Unity and Ryan halls, and the numerous classrooms. In addition, changes to the carpeting, pews, lighting, and sound system will eventually be required. In some cases, these issues will need to be addressed in the next 2 to 3 years. The firm that AOB has employed is preparing an assessment that will list potential costs and expected schedules for repairs. This assessment is funded by HFCC.
- The repairs of the sign listing the weekend mass schedule in front of the chapel may require a permit.

c. Fund-raising – importance/planned events

- Despite the balanced budget, HFCC must build its reserve fund for future needs. A major fund raiser (a wine tasting event) was scheduled for March. However, because of Lent and the St. Patrick’s Day dance, the wine tasting event was cancelled. Tentatively, the event is rescheduled for the fall.
- A bingo during February grossed over \$13,000. That is a significant help for the parish.

d. Increased offertory collection – appeal to parishioners

- No action was taken.

e. Display of art – women in the Hebrew scriptures

- A member of the pastoral council led a bible study class in the fall that concentrated on important women described in the Old Testament. One student decided to sketch pictures of these women as they might have appeared. The sketches are beautiful. Our volunteer carpenter is creating a circular backdrop on which to hang the sketches. The leader of the class contacted the Catholic Review (the magazine featuring AOB activities). Staff from the Catholic Review came to HFCC and interviewed the artist and teacher. An article on the study, its impact, and the artistic renderings may appear in the magazine.

f. Web-based calendar of events – success?

- The council recommended that a member talk to Sara Baron. The digital calendar may need more visibility.
- g. HFCC – a vision for the future
- Fr. Mike signed up for a course to develop a strategy of active discipleship. The goal is to have “disciples making disciples.” Ideally, the parish would develop younger parishioners as disciples for their lifetime.
- h. Pastoral council contributions – aid Fr. Mike
- The current consensus is that 3 to 6 members of the council should meet with Fr. Mike on a weekly basis. The meeting would take 45 minutes or less and would inform Fr. of issues that had been brought to a council member for resolution. The council subcommittee would also propose a potential solution.
 - The proposal included a starting time in Lent.
 - Further discussion about details of the subcommittee’s approach and visibility in the parish is needed.
- i. Human resources needed – significant additions
- The current youth minister is leaving her position after one of the AOB’s bishops confers the sacrament of Confirmation in May. Because of revised AOB guidelines, Confirmation will be at 9 years of age (fifth grade) instead of 15 years when youth are entering middle school or high school. To achieve this goal, in the fall of 2026, HFCC will have a two track formation for the sacrament: one for 4th graders and one for 9th graders.
 - The parish is looking for maintenance help. Fr. indicated that for a couple of months, a retiree would help with maintenance tasks. Misty cleaners from Glen Burnie is doing some of the cleaning. This is the same company that provides cleaning assistance during winter relief.
 - One of the parish staff is currently examining the narthex and how the parish might improve the welcoming area for new parishioners. Could an area be established for “welcome” bags that new parishioners would find helpful?
 - Fr. Mike has asked a parishioner who is retiring in the spring to conduct a survey of the parish staff to determine what human resources are needed to support HFCC.
 - Fr. Mike believes that HFCC needs an “executive” officer to watch over the daily operations of the parish and to manage both human and physical resource issues. This position would require a re-allocation of resources. The survey of the parish staff is designed to help decide how to re-allocate our resources.
- j. Eucharistic adoration – oratory
- Fr. Mike discussed the monstrance donated to HFCC with the donor. The family wanted the monstrance to remain in the old chapel. If repairs are needed, they would have to be discussed with the original donor.
 - No other action was taken.
- k. Recent changes – announcements/cantor/bulletin/blast
- Any changes are meant to welcome new parishioners as well as those who have been in the parish for years. Changes will be coming.
- l. Ryan Hall – dedication/improved facility
- No action was taken.
- m. Youth ministry – marketing
- No action was taken.

Pastor's Remarks – Fr. Mike Jendrek

- a. Status of maintenance support
 - Fr. Mike's remarks were reflected in item i. above.
- b. Status of faith direct/special collections
 - Changes are coming to the faith direct system, but nothing more is known.
- c. HVAC system – tuning
 - The HVAC system is working well as long as vents are not covered.
- d. Security system – enhancements
 - “Duress buttons” have been installed in key locations to notify police that there is an incident of concern at HFCC. All security changes have now been completed, and the grants for HFCC have been received.
- e. Unity Hall Rental – support
 - While people have volunteered to facilitate the hall rental, Fr. Mike questioned whether the parish should view the hall as a source of revenue or as a site for facilitating “discipleship”? Should the hall be used for weddings? No further discussion was possible because of time limitations.
- f. Parish strategic plan – presentation to Archbishop Lori
 - No discussion was possible because of time limitations.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Mike

The next meeting dates (7:00pm, in Classrooms 10 and 11):

- May ???, 2025
 - June 25, 2025
- end of report -----