

## **Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2025**

Attendees: Fr. Mike Jendrek, Deacon Doug, Deacon Moise, Kathy Brady, Bernadine Crosby, Mike Czlonka, Paul Dallavalle, Steve Harmel, Rick Hess, Rick Keegan, Peg Klein, Jenny Lagana, Andy Stroup.

### **Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike Jendrek**

Fr. Mike opened the meeting with prayer asking the Holy Spirit to grant the attendees wisdom and peace. Father also asked that we pray for two ill parishioners.

### **Discussion Agenda Items:**

#### a. Budget issues – documents prepared January 15, 2025

- Documents were distributed to the council shortly before the meeting. Discussion centered on balancing the budget, planning for future expenditures, and encouraging parishioner support for the parish. When HFCC receives all grant money from FEMA and our state government to upgrade security on the parish campus, the budget for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) will be balanced. The problem is that we are not creating a “stewardship reserve” for the future of the parish. Because of the need to install our new HVAC system, we borrowed money from the reserve. Those funds have not yet been replaced. In the past, we’ve managed budget shortfalls by asking for relief from the cathedraticum tax. Fr. Mike did ask for relief relative to “Building and Maintenance. Relief was granted, but we needed to borrow additional funds from AOB. This loan is for 10 years and requires a monthly payment of approximately \$2237.
- Discussion about these issues was extensive. The council recognizes that we need to increase donations to the parish through greater commitment from parishioners, more fund-raising activities, and active parishioner volunteers.
- The annual in-pew Archdiocesan Appeal occurs this coming weekend. Last year our parish goal was \$120,000, and we raised \$135,000. AOB’s goal for the appeal was \$7.5 million to support various Catholic charitable activities. The goal this year is \$8.0 million. HFCC is usually in the top 20 of contributing parishes. When our goal is met, a portion of the excess is returned to the parish for our use or for support of our sister parishes in Baltimore or Haiti.

#### b. Fund-raising – importance/planned events

- The parish golf tournament has consistently been the major fund-raiser in the parish. An effort is currently underway to have a wine-tasting event sponsored by Harvest Thyme Restaurant.
- Other fund-raisers have included sales of books, candles, baked goods, and so forth. Ideas for other possibilities are encouraged.

#### c. Increased offertory collections – appeal to parishioners

- A number of suggestions were made by council members, including a council member standing at the ambo and asking for increased financial support from parish members. Faith Direct is the ideal method for donations, but in-pew donations via envelopes are completely welcomed. Nothing was decided.

#### d. Web-based calendar of events – success?

- Some parishioners had questioned whether HFCC had too many events on the same day – either in the morning or in the evening. Other parishioners seemed happy to have a number of events to choose from. Council members discussed whether a video screen advertising events during the week and located in the narthex or outside Unity Hall might

be helpful to the parishioners. Eventually, this idea was vetoed. Sara Baron, a parish staff member, has created an on-line calendar of events that could be useful to many parishioners. The calendar needs to be advertised.

e. Eucharistic Adoration – modifications?

- A number of suggestions were proposed at the November council meeting. These are still being discussed. No further action was taken.

f. HFCC – National Historical District since 1992

- A history of HFCC parish is contained in a book stored at the Library of Congress. In 2029, the parish will be celebrating its centennial anniversary. No further action is needed at this time.

g. Pastoral council contributions – suggestion box/e-mail address

- Various approaches for increasing council assistance both to Fr. Mike and to parishioners were discussed. The council now has a physical mailbox in the parish office. A suggestion box had been placed in the narthex on the welcome desk, but the box disappeared. The council needs to work out details of managing both mailbox and suggestion box. These resources need to be advertised to the parish.

h. Changes at HFCC – announcements/cantor/bulletin/blast

- Announcements are now read before weekend Masses are begun. In general, parishioners seem to like this change. The new position of the cantor (at the ambo or near the piano) seems appropriate.
- Changes have been made to shorten both the bulletin and weekly blast and to make both methods of communication more relevant.

i. Ryan Hall – dedication/improved facility

- The hall has been painted. Parishioner awareness, a sign, and dedication are still needed. No further actions were discussed.

j. Return of Christmas post cards – census help?

- Fr. Mike reported that very few post cards were returned. We don't know if that fact is a reliable indicator of a parish census.

k. Planning for the future – repairs/funds

- Fr. Mike discussed a number of important issues. His remarks are summarized below.

l. Youth ministry – marketing

- At this time, our youth minister, the other members of the youth ministry, Fr. Mike, other staff members, and some volunteers are preparing the youth for confirmation. This intense effort is required because middle school and elementary school youth will be confirmed in May to comply with new archdiocesan guidelines.

Pastor's Remarks – Fr. Mike Jendrek

a. Status of maintenance support

- At this time, HFCC needs a maintenance person. Fr. Mike checked with OLPH but no support was available from that parish. HFCC is still recruiting.
- Currently, a cleaning company is maintaining classrooms in Unity and Ryan halls on Fridays.
- Two council members suggested occasional "maintenance days" when parishioners could do maintenance tasks. More discussion is needed.

- After complaints and a cost of almost \$6,000 to remove snow from the HFCC parking lot following an early season storm, HFCC hired a new company to do both plowing and lawn maintenance around the church.
  - An accident on Central Avenue in front of the chapel knocked down the sign showing weekend mass times. Estimates of replacing the sign or investing in an electronic sign were very high. A council member suggested that her spouse replace the sign for the cost of the lumber. A second council member thought he might be able to find higher quality wood for the sign. The volunteer carpenter did the sign replacement. The same volunteer also made the crucifixes that will be used Good Friday during the veneration of the cross.
- b. Status of faith direct/special collections
- This item was not discussed. The current version of “faith direct” is to be replaced this year. No further details are known.
- c. HVAC system – tuning
- Tuning continues. When the floor vents are not covered, the system works as designed. Air moves from the right of the nave to the left of the nave.
- d. Security system – enhancements
- Except for the handicap-accessible door, all front doors can now be controlled and opened from a remote site.
- e. Unity Hall Rental – support
- Part-time support is available to facilitate rental of the hall for special events. A plan for appropriate use of the hall is being developed.
- f. Parish strategic plan – presentation to Archbishop Lori
- Fr. Mike presented the parish strategic plan to the Archbishop. The plan was accepted. Fr. also met with an archdiocesan representative to discuss goals for implementation of the plan during the next year. Fr. emphasized that change is coming in order for the parish to progress and grow. Fr. wants HFCC to be a missionary parish, not a maintenance parish.
  - The corporators added that the pastoral council should **not** be bringing additional work to Fr. but should be bringing **solutions** for problems in the parish.

Fr. Mike ended the meeting with prayer and thanked council members for their participation.

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

- February 19, 2025
  - April 23, 2025
  - June 25, 2025
- end of report -----