

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**



September 20, 2023

In-Person

6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Pastoral Council in Attendance: Deb Steppe, Mary Alston, Paula Dahlman, Jackie Dombrowski, Anita Eikens, Dave Hansen, Denise Haussy, Pat McKay, Tom McKean, Judeen Schulte, Lorie Skeff, Donna Van Wynsberghe

Excused: Rebecca Porter, Wrenly Porter, Nancy Short

Prayer: Donna Van Wynsberghe welcomed attendees to a new year as members of the Pastoral Council. She led a brief prayer requesting the Holy Spirit's guidance for all our deliberations and actions.

Discussion: Number of Members for the Pastoral Council

- A. Donna began discussion of the size of the Council by identifying that our OLOL Pastoral Council Norms do not specify a maximum number of participants. They only indicate that "The Council shall have a minimum of 9 members." We currently have 15 members. She suggested that setting a number wasn't perhaps the best approach. Rather, she asked "What do we need? What characteristics are we looking for? What diversity, skills, and talents do we need among us to lead us into the future? What are we trying to get done?"
- B. Council members agreed that we were seeking persons who can help us be catalysts. Also, those who demonstrate the qualities identified in the *Pastoral Council Manual*, including ability to collaborate; willingness to grow in holiness through formation and stewardship; and readiness to serve in the context of the church (p. 67). We also specified we wanted to increase our male and youth representation.
- C. We discussed optimal sizes for group discussions and other factors affected by group size. After a lively discussion, we agreed we would not set a specific number at this time but rather see where the Spirit leads us during discernment.
- D. Donna announced that four current members agreed to renew their terms. Many thanks to Jackie Dombrowski, Pat McKay, Judeen Schulte, and Lorie Skeff.

Discernment of New Pastoral Council Members

- A. Five persons self nominated and met the Archdiocese's eligibility criteria: Baptized, practicing Catholic; at least 18 years of age; registered member of the parish, and parish life participant. The self nominated parishioners were Cory Anshus, Barb Kampa, Jim Stamatakos, Barb Webber, and Christine Yatchak.
- B. Prior to meeting with the Pastoral Council for further discussion, they submitted written documents answering two questions: "How are you currently involved in the parish?" and "What skills, talents, expertise, life experience do you bring to the ministry?" These documents were shared with the Council members for review prior to onsite discussion.
- C. Each participant met with the Council for five (5) minutes and answered two questions, "Why do you feel called to serve on the council?" and "If you are not discerned, how will you serve the parish?"
- D. After all nominees met with the Council, Council members discussed each person's written and in-person responses, referring again to the qualifications identified in the *Manual*. As a result, those the Council agreed to invite to join the Council were:

1. Cory Anshus
 2. Jim Stamatakos
 3. Barb Webber
 4. Christine Yatchak
- E. Judeen will notify all nominees if they were accepted or not and explain the next steps.
1. Orientation will be at 5:00 on October 18th. It will be conducted by the Elections Committee.
 2. All Council members will be Commissioned on October 18th. Individual and group pictures will be taken then. All members were asked to review their brief bio info on the parish website and new members will be asked to submit that info.
- F. We conducted a brief review of the process and said overall it went very well. Donna thanked the Elections Committee: Mary Alston, Denise Haussy, Judeen Schulte, and Lorie Skeff. Judeen recommended that a fillable form be created for elections next year in which nominees provided basic information and answers to the questions in B.

Writers for the *Unsung Disciples* bulletin insert were recruited.

No Committee Reports were made. Donna asked members to review previously sent reports.

Summary of the Meeting: We agreed to not set a definite number of persons to elect to this Council. (The election of the four new members brings the group to 19.) We implemented a new process to elect new members of the Pastoral Council and evaluated that it was very effective although changes will be implemented in the future. We confirmed writers for the rest of the year for the *Unsung Disciples* inserts.

Deb Steppe concluded the meeting, leading a prayer that thanked God for all those willing to serve and asking for continued blessings.

Respectfully submitted:

Judeen Schulte
