

ST. AGNES PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT 2022-2024

The purpose of this report is to provide you with information about the activities of the pastoral council from June of 2022 to December of 2024 and to inform you of our plans as we proceed into the coming year.

In June of 2022, coming out of the pandemic, there was a change in the majority of the council resulting in 9 new members. Over the last 2 years 6 members rotated off and 6 joined the pastoral council. The council members are listed on the front page of the bulletin.

The role of the Pastoral Council is to collaborate with Fr. Andy to investigate, study, and propose practical ways for the St. Agnes community to witness the love of Jesus to one another and the greater community. Our planning reflects the values expressed in our mission statement, considers the needs and strengths within our parish, and creates opportunities for us to live out our individual and collective roles as followers of Christ. We consider how parish life helps us to grow in faith, stewardship, and our sense of belonging to a dynamic Catholic family, keeping the celebration of the Eucharist as the focal point from which to plan. In order to do this, we actively engage in prayerful discernment at meetings and during annual retreats.

As such, the role of the pastoral council is not so much a task oriented one of coordinating ministries or daily operations, but instead, to discern how the direction of our collective activities meets the spiritual needs of our community and connects us to the Church as a whole. We seek to listen to the members of St. Agnes and be a source of inspiration in living out our calling as seekers in service of justice and love for all God's people and beloved creation.

Over the past 2 years examples of what the pastoral council has done:

- worked to incorporate synodal process and the results of our synod report to guide decisions
- supported growth in youth activities and faith formation
- initiated Bishop Stowe presenting our 2023 and 2024 parish missions
- supported the restarting of the parish picnic following the lifting of pandemic restrictions
- identified a member of the parish to coordinate the 2024 parish directory
- supported the formation of the Laudato Si ministry and the intergenerational garden
- re-initiated small faith group formation during Lent and ongoing adult faith formation
- supported ecumenical/interreligious services with Shepherdstown churches
- initiated the formation of the Gathering Space committee
- supported initiation of formation of Hispanic outreach and accompaniment committees

We have developed a parish council vision statement that will help us to focus on the gospel:

*As representatives of the parish, we listen and respond to the voices and aspirations of our faith community.
We seek to equip and empower our diverse parish by supporting opportunities for discipleship through all stages of life.*

We seek to create ways to empower each of us to contribute to the life of the parish based on our interests, talents, gifts and skills while taking into consideration our needs. We encourage you to seek pastoral council members out to let us know your ideas and concerns and to read the meeting minutes posted on the website.

On behalf of the entire pastoral council, we thank you for your prayers and support and the opportunity to serve you. *Fr. Andy Switzer*

*Connie Bonner
Patrick Green
Brendan Jarrell*

*Gerry Fitzgerald
Shaná Harris
Blanche Landry*

*Bassell Franks
Colin Hayden
Vanessa Santiago*

*Heather Garcia
Cate Hershey
Christine Wiegman*