

Pastoral Council Meeting Notes
November 15, 2023

Present: Fr. Andy Switzer, Christine Wiegman-Green, Colin Hayden, Patrick Green, Gil Sateia, Connie Bonner, Becky Tokarcik, Vanessa Santiago, Brendan Jarrell, Bill Sagle

Opening Prayer: All

Christine Wiegman-Green spoke about her recent trip to Spain to walk the Camino de Santiago. Some of her notable experiences included these thoughts and awakenings:

- walking the camino is therapeutic, because walking is the pace in which the body is meant to process thoughts and experiences
- carrying and releasing stones along the trek as a way of letting go of burdens
- sharing the experience with pilgrims from around the world who are coming to faith, questioning their faith and searching for faith was very useful and helped her grow in her own faith
- the camino is a level playing field for all who undertake it
- real synodality existed among the pilgrims on the journey

Vanessa Santiago was introduced by Fr. Andy and welcomed to the Pastoral Council.

The proposed construction of a Parish Hall was the main focus of the November meeting. Sue Kemnitzer of the Finance Council addressed the council on why now is the time to begin the building process. Among her advice and recommendations are the following:

- the time is now to come to grips with the need for a Parish Hall
- some funds have been set aside for the project; but more will be needed
- the diocese must approve of the hall and give financial support
- there must be a reckoning regarding the financial aspect and the parish must get moving on this
- the current parishioners and new parishioners must step up financially to support the project
- fundraisers must be considered
- now is the time to begin, because construction materials are escalating in price
- a committee needs to be formed to get this entire project moving
- names must be considered for the committee
- consider different age groups and a mix of representation on the committee
- several names were considered
- the hall should be modeled upon the way the church was built
- Pope Francis's call to respect the environment must be a factor in the building process
- ascetics with space and environmental responsibility are considerations
- an architect must be involved early in the process
- a local architect who is already known to the diocese from previous work on building the church should be considered
- what are we trying to achieve overall with the new building
- there is a need to discern the purposes of the building: faith formation, dinners, classroom space, activities after weddings or funerals, etc. should be considered
- a liaison from the Pastoral Council to the building committee should be chosen
- continue to trust and allow the Holy Spirit during the planning and construction
- this will be a lengthy process and must be pushed

Fr. Andy told the council to remember this date as the start of the Parish Hall project.

The council addressed the ongoing discussion regarding a new Parish Directory and Ministerial Directory. Father Andy said that this should be in motion by Spring 2024. Gil Sateia has volunteered to assist with the work on the Ministerial Directory.

Fr. Andy informed the council on the upcoming Ecumenical services to be held during Advent. Details are being worked out and will be announced at Masses and in the bulletin.

A fundraising effort will be held to support the work of Doctors Without Borders and the extraordinary efforts that organization undertakes throughout the world.

On December 6, Dr. Dennis Woods will present a special program on Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius at St. Agnes.

An abbreviated Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 to be followed by a holiday gathering with some food and beverages.