

Pastoral Advisory Council Minutes
June 12, 2023 7:00 PM

Attending: Fr. Michael, Monte Hauserman, Barbara Cole, Julia Beckley, Steve Welsh, Emily Krivacek, Amy Biedermann, Ivan Calil, Rob Kachmar, Greg Humensky, Greg Polito, Harry Kaplun, Tyson Theilen, Barbie Fitzgerald, Anika Garcia

Absent: Fr. Lucas, Steve Wyse

Opening Prayer: Fr. Michael

General

- Monte: Please send out your own personal invitations for new PAC members, since these are always the best way to bring in new quality members to the council.
- Columbarium Expansion - Fr. Michael reported:
 - Situation
 - One new panel with 103 niches, 2 urns per niche, was planned with our recent expansion efforts.
 - We also received a letter from the Bishop granting us approval for the expansion.
 - Later on, after the Bishop's approval, we received a letter from the Bishop, which made it clear that he does not want any new columbarium built and doesn't want any existing ones to be expanded.
 - Fr. Michael consulted with his executive team and eventually decided to move forward with the Bishop's latest decision.
 - In the last two weeks, we sold the last niche available in the existing panels.
 - Reasons to continue
 - We always planned to get an expansion.
 - Loved ones can be visited after mass.
 - There will be a blank wall if we don't.
 - Reasons not to continue
 - It is not the will or wish of the Bishop.
 - We will be adding 103 more niches to perpetual care, along with any long-term liability and escrow costs required by the diocese.
 - Once we sell out of them, we'll be in the same situation.
 - We were approved for expanding by one panel, but later, the Bishop found out that the previous Bishop did not approve of expanding the columbarium. This then led to the Bishop sending out his recent letter on the subject.
 - Parishioners' opinions
 - Linda Wagner

- We appreciate Fr. Michael responding to all our inquiries.
- Many of us have pledged until it hurts, and among the promised plans for those pledges was an expansion for the Columbarium.
- We are concerned that it was decided behind the scenes and everyone had to find out through the rumor mill.
- We didn't realize it was going to be a race to buy up spots.
- We were approved by the Bishop for the extra panel.
- The majority of the community is behind this expansion.
- This is our home. This is the 2nd church we're building, and we want to come home to it when we've passed.
- She read a bible verse.
- Linda Alley
 - Parish member for 27 years.
 - We've all been active members of this community, and many have put their kids all the way through the school.
 - We're an aging parish. When helping found this parish, we weren't thinking about the future.
 - We expect the parish to take care of us at the Columbarium when we pass.
 - If it will help, we could arrange a townhall of our parish to confirm that most of the parish wants this.
- Monte: How many would buy one if it were available? Those that don't have one in the audience raised their hands.
- Council's opinions
 - Steve Welch
 - There is a surprising lack of information on the topic. The only info he found was a few lines about Seaton closing theirs.
 - Fr. Michael said it was handled as an internal communication.
 - Greg Polito
 - He and his wife have decided to be cremated. He read a recent article that was strongly against cremation, and he doesn't find the arguments relevant; it's up to the parishioners.
 - Fr. Michael said the point of the article was meant to emphasize that the preference of the Catholic church is for members to be buried. Columbarium make it seem like it's the new preference of the church, when it is not.
 - Barbara
 - What happens next?
 - Fr. Michael – it takes a strong leader to make a tough decision, and it takes a wise leader to reverse that decision. He is taking everything under advisement and will communicate the final decision to Monte, which will then be communicated to the entire community. This is a good representation of the parish, so he's leaning toward moving forward with the expansion, and then locking it in at 7 panels. The niche price is not

- grandfathered in, so it will go up according to fair market value and only offered to parishioners. It will be a 1st come, 1st serve availability.
- Fr. Michael's decision later that evening, after prayer and reflection.
 - Dear PAC members, thank you for your feedback and input regarding the expansion of our parish Columbarium. Based on your comments, suggestions, and recommendations, along with those from the PAC guest parishioners, we will go forward with completing the seventh and final panel in our Columbarium.
 - Details of construction completion, availability and pricing will be forthcoming and made available to the parishioners when they are finalized within the next couple of weeks, or so.
 - Thanks, again, for your service to our parish on behalf of all the parishioners and staff of Prince of Peace!
 - PS: Linda, thanks for your heartfelt and eloquent presentation tonight. Feel free to forward this email on to your supporters, our parishioners, informing them that we will complete the expansion of the Columbarium. I appreciate everyone's love and support of our parish community. Blessings to all!

Pastor's Report: *Fr. Michael reported:*

- Sacramental Update
 - We welcomed 5 new members into the church and 7 other new Catholics on Pentecost Sunday.
 - Saturday, May 13th we had 1st Communion masses.
 - Fr. Lucas is moving to St. Paul in Richardson.
 - Fr. Eugene Ikenna is our newest priest.
- School Update
 - We're planning to get an iron gate placed around the perimeter, which the committee unanimously approved.
 - The fence will cost: \$229,450K.
 - Financial reserves will be used to fund it.
 - We still need to get city approval.
 - The security expert we hired to review our facilities agrees with our decision to move forward with a fence.
 - We're getting artificial turf for the playgrounds, which will be around \$163K.
 - The nursing home next to POP has been purchased by a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center recently.
 - We checked with the city, and they don't have any record of it.
 - Mr. Weber has reached out to the other nearby schools, preparing to go to the mayor to voice our concerns once we understand what is happening.
- Staff Update
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- Finances
 - We're still working on final funding of the art.
 - All the Stations have been fully funded.

- We've had minimal defaults on pledges.
- Facilities
 - We're still targeting to complete Phase 3 by the beginning of August.
 - Rich Frasco put a good list together of kitchen appliances for the new space.
 - January 7th, 2024 is still the target for the Bishop to dedicate the new sanctuary.
 - We will get a dispensation to celebrate Christmas mass before the dedication.
 - The lease at House of God's Glory is expiring Nov 30th, so we'll just carve out some space for the daily adoration until the chapel is ready, along with the sanctuary.

Facilities and Finance

- *Building: Harry reported:*
 - Father already summarized everything.
- *Finance: Tyson reported:*
 - It's the time of year for budget approvals.
 - We're adding funds to the budget for a full-time police officer year-round.
 - Excess gala funding will be utilized for new furniture in the media center.
 - Meghan Jones received the Work of Heart Award, presented by the Catholic Foundation.
 - 775 students are expected to attend POP next year, with 761 currently enrolled.
 - There will be a 7% tuition increase.
 - 4th through 8th grades are full, but there is capacity in the CLC and other grades.
 - The school only lost 3 teachers this year.
 - The GAPS funding (\$550K federal grant) will be spent through September 2024, with 60% this year and 40% in 2024.
 - \$200K will be spent on webcams, as well as upgrading networks and firewalls; most of the expenditures are one-time in nature and should have 3-year lifespans.
 - Mr. Weber is working on a 5-year projection with the finance team.
 - A Booster Club was added with a net \$0.00 to the budget.
 - The school is redoing the wallpaper upstairs for ~\$98K, as well as 27 double-paned windows for ~\$15K.
 - The playgrounds will be resurfaced for ~\$163K.
 - The new perimeter fence will be ~\$180K.

Pillar Subcommittee Reports:

- *Communications and Technology: Julia reported:*
 - No big updates other than the church now has an Instagram account: POP.Plano
- *Young Church and Young Adults: Ivan reported:*
 - Still looking for volunteers to be catechists; see Sue Mann or Erin you're interested.
- *Adult Faith: Amy reported:*
 - 12 adults received sacraments recently.

- Ministries are planning out activities for this coming year.
- *Children's Ministry: Anika reported:*
 - Classes will begin again in August with a meet-the-teacher event.
- *Marriage Ministry: Barbie reported:*
 - The 1st single-parent family meeting had about a dozen in attendance, including others from parishes around the area.
 - It was a good start.
 - One Grandmother from Good Shepherd brought her daughter and children who don't currently go to church.
 - The ministry will focus on related topics, as well as building faith and support.
- *POP School: Emily reported:*
 - The library should hopefully be ready for the start of the school year.
 - We are upgrading our web cams.
 - We have 4 new teachers, a 2nd guidance counselor, and a new assistant for the president and principal.
 - Some people are saying that the school groups would not be able to use the new parish facilities, but Fr. Michael says none of those details have been hammered out. We're currently in a situation where we aren't booking anything for the new facilities yet.
 - Fr. Michael will talk to Katie to help with messaging.
- *Pathfinders: Steve Welsh reported:*
 - The group had a great experience with the homeless.
 - We just needed to be there to listen, letting them know they are seen and loved.
 - We talked with people of all ages, backgrounds, and races. Some have been on the street for year, and many have college degrees but were laid off and can't afford Dallas' high rents.
 - Many POP volunteers have shared how the experience opened their eyes and changed them, and they are hoping to go back.
- *Outreach: Steve Welsh reported:*
 - The Spring semester just ended, and we are in our planning phase for the upcoming Fall and Spring.
 - We're looking to increase Outreach over the summer, including Holy Spirit 101 and a Healing Mass.
 - We are planning more parish nights that will coming into full swing when our worship spaces open.
- *Staff Interviews: Greg P. reported:*
 - Monte: Great work by Greg P. in his latest interview of Greg H.
- *Knights of Columbus – Steve Wyse reported via proxy:*
 - Fred Kuglin was named Knight of the Month.

- The Mark and Marty Dama family was named Family of the Month.
 - Our Council #11716 was recognized at the KoC State Convention for our work with American Wheelchair Mission.
 - June Breakfast was a success despite many Knights and parishioners out on vacation.
 - Our next Breakfast will be in August (no Knight's Breakfast in July).
 - A Parish Fundraiser Golf Tournament will be held at Top Golf on Sunday afternoon, September 24th. Proceeds will be distributed to Parish ministries.
 - Steve Welsh shared a heartfelt letter that Bill Weber received regarding the wheelchair mission.
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Closing Prayer: Monte

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 14th at 7:00 PM in a TBD conference room.