

Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2024. 6:30 p.m.
Father Crawford Hall, Church of the Incarnation

Father Nick opened with the Prayer for the New Year. Chairwoman Nora Uricchio led the members in reading the Parish Mission and Vision Statements.

Members Present: Gina Burby, Deacon Michael Cassella, Jen Faenza, Deacon Keith Griffin, Erin Gaboury, Michelle Jakielo, Pter Leombruni, Maria Maynard, Paula Melillo, Father Nick Melo, Ken Mendoza, Father Zach Pushpanathan, Sharon Reynolds, Sal Santapaola, Nora Uricchio

Remotely on the Phone: Debbie Abbate

Members Absent: Jim Gorman, Bryan Violette, Ann Sarpu

Parishioners Present: Fran Lawrence, Nancy Kiely. Marilyn Ridolfo

A. Election of Officers

Father Melo presented the proposed slate of officers and asked for nominations from the floor. Since there were none, the proposed slate of Nora Uricchio, Chairwoman, Jen Faenza, Vice-Chairwoman. Michelle Jakielo, Co-Secretary and Paula Melillo, Co-Secretary was presented for a vote. The slate was elected unanimously.

Father Nick began a discussion of Article 5, Section b of the Pastoral Council Bylaws which states; "The officers shall be elected annually by a vote of the Ex-Officio Members and Lay Members". A motion made and seconded to change the term of offices from one year to two years. A vote was taken and the motion was passed.

B. The minutes of the June 11, 2024 Pastoral Council were approved.

C. Pastor's Report – Father Nick

Father Nick informed the council members of the \$6, 258,000 bequest from the Honorable Edward Y. O'Connell for Sacred Heart Parish. The amount of the bequest is designated as follows: 1 million for Social Action Committee with money invested and the earnings used to fund projects; 2.5 million for Corpus Christi School with 1.5 million used toward renovations to accommodate the expansion of the Pre K program and 1 million invested in a scholarship fund; \$705,625 to the Archdiocese as a tax (Cathedraticum). The remaining money will be invested for Capital Improvements to Christ the King Parish facilities. The money will not be used for general operating expenses even though the 2023-2024 year saw a deficit of \$340,000

Jen Faenza, a part time employee for Communications, prepares the weekly bulletin and updates the website, e-newsletter, myParish app, Facebook and Instagram. Deacon Keith is our Pastoral Minister assisting with funeral families, beginning the Bereavement program,

assisting with Baptism families as he establishes an outreach program for these families, and he will work with our Faith Formation program in youth outreach.

Father Anthony Federico, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Hartford, will visit our parish on Sunday, November 10 and will preach at all Masses. Archbishop Coyne will visit our parish on Saturday, December 21 for the 4:30 pm Vigil Mass.

Pope Francis has called for 2025 to be a Jubilee Year of Hope.

D. Committee Reports

1. Social Action – Nancy Kiely

Refer to the weekly bulletin for details regarding on going and future projects; e.g. shelter meals, food collection, coffee and sugar donations for House of Bread, sandwich collection, care bags, Kid's Café.

2. Liturgy – Nora Uricciho

A liturgy meeting will be held on September 23 to discuss future liturgies.

3. Corpus Christi School – Maria Maynard

Principal Ann Sarpu was not present because of Open House at the school. Maria noted there are two classes for every grade level except for grade 6. A Social Worker has been added to the staff and is visiting each classroom. Free breakfast and free lunch are available through a grant for all students. Student enrollment is 412 with new registrations daily and a waiting list for Pre K, grade 7 and grade 8. The summer camp program was successful with 70 children participating.

4. Faith Formation – Gina Burby, Sharon Reynolds

The theme this year for grades K-6 is "The World is Drowning Out the Voice of God" focusing on hearing God's voice among the many distractions of the modern world. Catechetical Sunday will be September 15 at the 9:30 am Mass with a "Meet and Greet" the teachers following Mass. Throughout the year the focus will be as follows: grades K-6 Adoration assisted by Deacon Keith; grade 4, the Rosary; grade 5, the Beatitudes; grade 6, the Bible and Parables. On September 14 students in grades 7-10 will attend the 4:30 pm Mass. Then on November 9 students in grade 9 and 10 will attend a retreat at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield featuring Father Federico as the keynote speaker.

5. Building and Grounds – Peter Leombruni

It was the intention of the committee to have the drainage work completed in the Corpus Christi Church north parking lot while the school was in summer recess. Five contractors were contacted for quotes, only three responded. Since the quotes came in too late in the season, the committee intends to continue the bidding process and hire a contractor before the spring of 2025 and then initiate the work in the summer of 2025.

6. Finance Council – Sal Santapaola

Refer to the printed Annual Report for the detailed accounting of parish income and expenses for the time period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. This report was recently included in the church bulletin.

7. Women's Club – Paula Melillo

Membership information for the 2024-2025 Women's Club year has been mailed to members. A calendar of meeting programs and events was included. This organization is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. In 1964, Father John Crawford, the founding

pastor of the Church of the Incarnation, charged the women of the parish with uniting the people through spiritual and social programs/events and charitable acts.

8. Men's Club – Peter Leombruni

Plans have been completed for the Parish Picnic. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

9. Pro Life – Michelle Jakielo

A Baby Bottle Drive for St. Gerard's Center for Life in Hartford will begin on October 5th and 6th. Confirmation students will help with distributing the bottles. The bottles, with monetary donations inserted, will be collected on October 19th and 20th. The goal of this event is to support moms and dads who choose life for their unborn babies and seek help from St. Gerard's Center.

Detailed Committee Reports are available in the church office.

E. Old Business

1. Status Report: three top issues

a. Youth Engagement – Gina Burby, Nancy Kiely, Deacon Keith Griffin

Social action and youth projects will be discussed at a planning meeting on Monday, September 16. A Family Bingo Night is planned.

2. Welcome, Social – Michelle Jakielo. Paula Melillo

A coffee social hour is planned for September 29 after the 9:30 Mass. Also a speaker from St. Michael Ukrainian Church will talk about the Catholic faith of the people during the time of war. Members of the Pastoral Council will be in attendance to meet with people. A guide for greeters has been written. Confirmation students will be encouraged to be greeters at Masses throughout the year as their service to the church. Greeters are needed at Masses at both churches.

3. A ministry, Nurturing Seedlings, has been established to provide parents the support, encouragement and skills needed to nurture the spiritual life of their young children.

4. Jen Faenza continues to upgrade and monitor the parish's social media platforms; Facebook, Instagram, and myParish app.

5. Safe Environment update. Sharon reminded everyone that all active members of each ministry must be VIRTUS trained and have a background check from the Archdiocese of Hartford within the last ten years.

6. A bereavement group facilitated by Deacon Keith and Audrey Saharek, will begin in September. This ten week program format is designed to help people dealing with the loss of a loved one. Another session will begin in the spring.

F. New Business

1. A suggestion was made to consider changing the time of the Saturday Vigil Mass to 4:00 pm during the winter.

2. The future meetings of the Pastoral Council will be on December 16, 2024, March 10, 2025 and June 2, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm with a prayer by Father Zach.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Jakielo and Paula Melillo
Co-Secretaries

