

**ST. BRENDAN PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2024, MEETING**

ATTENDEES: Fr. Mark, Kimberly Antolini, Stephen Bonawitz, Madeline Dubas, Sandy Esparza, Ginny Grant, Celeste Korpon, Tom Kuncewitch, Matt Kelly, Bob McGahran, Pat McLaughlin, Charles McShane

ABSENT: Ada Flores, Fr. Anit Jacob, Ronald Hickson, Sandra Nelson, Vincent Russo

1. Fr. Mark opened the meeting at 9:36 with a prayer.
2. Minutes of the May 2, 2024, meeting which had previously been emailed to all members were approved.

Order of business was changed to allow for early leave of Charles McShane.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- Lower Cape Fear Life will be here on June 27 with a program on advance directives and review of NC forms. First notice appeared in this week's bulletin to be repeated for the next three weeks. Fr. will announce from the pulpit at all masses the weekend before. Thanks to Kim Antolini for assistance with registration and development of the QR code for registering. Registration is up from the previous program.
Lower Cape Fear Life is having a special program on Dementia with a specialist from Raleigh. Program to be held at Brunswick Community College on June 11. The program is free. Information emailed to Council members.
St. Luke's is looking into holding similar programs by LCFL. Charlie and Kathleen from Human Life and Dignity will meet with them.
- Work is beginning on this year's Annual Parish Summary. Looking for feedback on how to enhance, improve or identify what needs to be added. Feasibility of developing booklet containing various ministries with contact information was discussed. It was noted that this ties in with tool being developed by Matt Kelly and Kim Antolini. Charlie needs two members to assist him.
- Father John Paul will arrive at 10:22 pm on Thursday, June 20, at ILM. Frs. Mark and Anit will greet him at the airport. He will be introduced, celebrate and preach at all Masses on June 22/23. A reception will be held for Fr. John Paul following each Mass. The Knights of Columbus will provide lite refreshments following the 5:00 pm Mass; the Welcome Committee will provide refreshments after all Masses on Sunday.
Fr. John Paul will celebrate his 50th birthday on Wednesday, October 23. Thought should be given to his birthday celebration.

4. FINANCE:

- The new Finance Council met with Diocesan personnel to discuss guidelines for their committee, review best practices and discuss common difficulties which can occur. Members were trained by Diocesan personnel via zoom.
- Meeting was held on June 3 to discuss budget for 2024/2025. Meeting will be held on June 24 to finalize budget for 2024/2025.
- Quarterly review – Not yet available nor is the Annual Review. All Finance activities are reviewed by the Business Manager monthly.
- July 1 begins the new fiscal year. The Finance Council, its members and all financial reports will be added to the website, similar to that of the Pastoral Council.
- The purchase of the new Rectory has been finalized and Frs. Mark and Anit have moved in.
- The "as is" contract pending on the sale of the old rectory expired on May 31. Minor repairs and painting will be completed prior to relisting to remove "as is" stipulation..
- The building of a new parking lot has been postponed indefinitely. It was originally thought that the proceeds from the sale of the old rectory could be used to finance the additional parking. The

Diocese has now deemed that this money must be allocated to reduce the mortgage on the McGivney Center/New Rectory. Mortgages had been combined on these two buildings with no increase in monthly payment by extending the term of the mortgage. Ideas for creating additional parking spaces are being investigated.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- Six Year Update provided to Council Members will be published in the bulletin on 6/8-9 and will finalize the 2010 Parish Vision Statement created by Fr. Ippolito. (Report Attached). Five of the “to do” list items have been completed. The only item not fulfilled is the addition of a Communications Coordinator. This had been tabled to keep costs low as we were going into building the McGivney Center and obtaining the necessary new rectory. A new Parish Vision Statement will not be created. Instead, the Parish Pastoral Plan, which is updated annually, will take its place. The reconstituted Parish Advisory Council will be complete with the election of four additional members in December, 2024. With three-year terms (two consecutive term limit), the Council will be in perpetual motion and function autonomously from the Pastor. The election committee consists of Madeline Dubas, Celeste Korpon and Sandy Nelson.
- Update on the “tools” for gathering information—The Diocese has approved obtaining a “Google” account which will centralize and allow for electronic submission of requested information, contain forms, calendar and spreadsheets all in one area. Tool would be emailed, response submitted, receipt acknowledged and pushed to the website. With the injury to the Associate Business Manager, this project has been delayed.
- The need for a Communications Coordinator on staff was discussed. Addition would allow us to adapt QR codes to bring us up to the 21st Century. Many churches already have QR codes in their pews – L B D—liturgy, bulletin, donate. Would coincide with Fr. Mark’s desire for more parishioners to use their smart phones during the Mass. Tabled until next year to allow more research on duties and additional functions that could be supported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **St. Michael Ministry** – Report attached.
Security system has been updated. Long term goal: Hard perimeter update.
- **Facilities** – Report attached. Preventive maintenance has been rolled out using the established playbook plus ad hoc ideas. A portico over the side door by the choir loft has been requested. It is on the list but with low priority.
- **Columbiettes** – Report attached.
- **Faith Formation** – Report attached.
- **Liturgy Committee** – No report.
- **Hispanic Community** – Three members of the Hispanic leadership will travel to Chicago to take part in training in Youth Ministry. They have already completed training in Parish Ministry.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

- Question was asked re. making available both species during Communion. Father indicated it cannot happen at St. Brendan due to lack of space. Diocese mandates two cups to every host position. Another consideration is that of hygiene
- Thank you to Sandy Esparza for her work this year with the Council.

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024, FOLLOWING THE 9:00 AM MASS.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am with a closing prayer. Have a safe and healthy summer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastor's Report:

SIX – YEAR UPDATE

By Fr. Mark J. Betti, Pastor

When I arrived here at St. Brendan six years ago the parish leadership said two things to me: 1. Welcome!

2. Here is your “To Do” list.

Parish Vision Statement 2016

For the several years prior to my arrival in June of 2018 the parish had convened a “Vision Committee.” This Vision Committee consisted of parishioners and was tasked with conducting a parish-wide survey to determine what were perceived as the greatest current and future needs of the parish. The results of the survey were compiled and prioritized by the Vision Committee into a Vision Statement. Here are the top five priorities:

1. Build a new office building.
2. Move Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry from the parish hall/kitchen into the “old” office building.
3. Hire full time Communications Coordinator.
4. Hire full time Outreach Coordinator.
5. Add “1.5” priests: one full-time and one “retired or other” half-time.

NEW OFFICE BUILDING

The first priority was set as constructing a new office building. This new building would provide work space for additional staff which will be needed to respond adequately to the spiritual and pastoral needs of the rapid growth in the greater Shallotte area. The original plan was to “build to the size of cash on hand” rather than take out a loan and/or conduct a capital campaign. In 2018 the amount of cash the parish had on hand would have been enough to build a 4,000 sq. ft. building. The existing office building at the time was 3,000 sq. ft. It did not seem “worth it” to me to add only 1,000 sq. ft. of office space. Also, being an experienced builder in the Diocese of Raleigh I knew that the first question the diocese would ask us when we presented our design to them would be, “What are your plans to expand the building?” Therefore, I recommended that we “build to the maximum space our property could sustain.” Given the limits of frontage easement, parking, impervious surface and retention pond capacity, the biggest building our property could hold (without having to design it to be expanded later) is roughly 6,400 sq. ft. That is the actual size of the McGivney Pastoral Center. While the parish did not conduct a capital campaign (you’re welcome) and since the scope of the project was greater than was originally envisioned by the Vision Statement, we did have to take out a loan from the diocese. This also necessitated a postponement of hiring a Communications

Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator, as it is in the best interest of the parish to keep overhead/expenses as low as possible when applying for a loan.

STATUS OF 2016 VISION STATEMENT PRIORITIES

1. Completed: Build a new office building.
2. Completed: Move Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry from the parish hall/kitchen into the “old” office building.
3. Postponed: Hire full time Communications Coordinator.
4. Postponed: Hire full time Outreach Coordinator.
5. Completed: Add “1.5” priests: one full-time and one “retired or other” half-time.

Facilities Report:

HVAC: Repair pending for HVAC unit that serves the ladies room in the gathering space.

Janitorial: Exploring costs to deep clean carpets and tile in the parish hall, church and Michael J. McGivney Pastoral Center funds budgeted for FY 2024/2025.

Kitchen: The Knights of Columbus - Helping Hands Ministry installed a “wet wall/ backsplash) in the kitchen and mounted two shelves to increase storage and allow for easy access to kitchen utensils.

Plumbing: Several restroom and irrigation leaks have been or are in the process of being repaired.

Parish

Inventory: Awaiting input from two ministries and needing to reach out to a few groups who’s information was insufficient.

Recognition: Correspondence thanking both the Knights of Columbus and Marge Krug for their support on the kitchen wet wall project and exterior landscaping were sent out this month. Their respective efforts have improved the function and appearance of our campus.

Roads &

Grounds: Two of the four bell tower light fixtures were broken. All four were replaced with newer, energy efficient light that fully illuminate the bell tower.

The rear parking lot has been striped in-house vs. using an outside contractor.

Roof: Nothing to report.

Misc.: Have fully integrated the use of a preventive maintenance plan/schedule for routine maintenance activities.

Assisted with the move to the new rectory along with the builder to owner punch list/ transition.

Installed three New AED’s in the parish hall, Knock Center, and McGivney Center.

Facilities Look Ahead

Ø Repair the portion of the irrigation system that serves rear church area across from the Knock Outreach Center. Date: TBD

AND YET, as we are first and foremost a church, with the responsibility of providing for the pastoral and spiritual needs of parishioners, God has blessed us with two additional priests: Fr. Anit A. Jacob, MS, and Fr. John Paul Murangi (to arrive 20 June 2024). (Note: while Fr. John Paul will be assigned to us full-time, his expenses to the parish essentially will be “.5” as in the Vision Statement since he will use a parish-owned vehicle!)

Knights Of Columbus - Council 9039 Report - JUNE 6, 2024

- The First Friday Rosary will be held at St Brendan’s Church at 8am on June 7th.
- The Semi-Annual Blood Drive held on May 7 yielded 52 pints of blood for the American Red Cross.
- The Silver Rose Rosary Ceremony, the Knights of Columbus tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Patron of the America’s, our Holy Mother appeared while pregnant with Jesus, was held for the Knights Meeting and Tuesday morning with the Church community. We then transferred the Silver Rose to the next council 14632 at Our Lady of Hungary Parish.
- The Knights “Baby Bottle” fund raiser for St Brendan’s Life & Dignity Ministry was a success with coin filled baby bottles returned on Mother’s Day -and they are still trickling into church.
- Our next General Council Meeting is Monday June 10th at 7pm in the McGivney room.
- The Knights will have an Exemplification on June 10th at 6pm for inducting four new members into Council 9039 at St Brendan’s Church
- The Annual KofC Golf Outing will be held at Sea Trail Jones Golf Course on Wednesday June 12th and is sold out.
- The Knights will have a LAMB collection on Friday and Saturday June 14-15 at Sunset Beach Food Lion.
- The Knights Monday Night Football Fund raiser will start sales on Father’s Day June 16th.
- The Columbiettes and Knights Communion Breakfast will be held at Crow Creek on June 16th at 10am (After the 8am mass)
- The Knights will have a Meat Lasagna, meatball and bun, Dinner to go at the St Brendan’s Kitchen/Hall on Saturday June 22. Cost is \$12/dinner and \$40 for a family four pack
- The monthly KofC Council Officers meeting will be Monday June 24 at 6pm
- The Knights will be working on the Adopt-A-Highway program (Litter pick-up) on Saturday Morning June 29th along Georgetown Road in OIB.
- The July First Friday Rosary is July 5th at 8am St Brendan Church
- The Knights annual Pelican Game/Picnic Outing will be held Thursday July 11 at 6pm at the Myrtle Beach Pelicans, the \$38 cost includes All You can eat Picnic Dinner and baseball Game tickets.

Respectfully

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY COUNCIL 9039

June, 2024

- We initiated one new member.
- We voted on a new set of officers for the upcoming year term 2024-2025.
- We voted on a fundraising project with Belks to begin in June.
- We are still collecting Baby Board books to go to the Literacy Council.
- We voted to again collect book bags over the summer to be distributed to parish students in September.
- We have a committee working toward a Patriotic Rosary to take place in November.
- We have a commitment from Creative Spirit to knit hats, scarves, and gloves for our project to provide these items for needy children in the Fall.
- We have seven (7) scholarship nominees who will be receiving money. A total of \$8,000 was raised for this venture,
- We voted on six charities to receive donations from our remaining funds.
- We will break for the months of July and August and begin meeting again in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Esparza ,

President

St. Michael Ministry:

JUNE 6, 2024

- The SMM currently has 55 volunteers—35 security and 20 medic that staff weekend Masses for Saturday, 5PM and Sunday 8AM and 11AM. We are working with Sister Roseanne to recruit volunteers for the 9:30AM Mass
- In the last six months we have responded to a total of 11 incidents as of this, with a year-end projection of 26 incidents. We believe these numbers indicate and confirm the need for the Ministry.
- The three new AEDs have been installed and SMM volunteers have been trained on their use. Please note that anyone who has basic reading and hearing skills can use them. AEDs “talk” the user through the process and will tell the user whether an electric charge is needed or not. Basic medical equipment has been gathered and is available at the desk in the Gathering Space.
- The security team has worked closely with the Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) and the Shallotte Police Department (SPD) to conduct a security survey/audit

and we are working on a 5 year plan based on the survey. We are also working with BCSO and the SPD to begin an officer/ deputy walk-through of our campus. This will provide officers with some basic knowledge should they have to respond for any reason.

- A budget request for the fiscal year 2024 – 2025 that addresses some of the concerns of the security survey has been submitted.
- We will be staffing a table in the Gathering Space on the weekend of June 22 and 23 in an effort to increase our numbers. This recruitment effort includes staffing for the 9:30 a.m. Mass.
- No further information at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald A. Hickson and
Jeanne Miller

FAMILY CENTERED FAITH FORMATION JUNE, 2024

- On Mother's Day, May 12, Vivienne Mindlin crowned the Blessed Mother before the 11:00 AM Mass. Vivienne was very excited for this honor and did a great job. Thank you, Fr. Mark, for making it so special.
- The children, High School Helpers and Catechists enjoyed the "End of the School Year Breakfast Celebration" on Sunday, June 2. The breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, pancakes and juice/water was prepared by Catalino Olmedo, Federico Geniz and members of the Hispanic Prayer and Service Group. It was delicious and enjoyed by all. Thank you, Fr. Anit, for giving a special blessing before the meal was served and then visited with the students at each class table.
- We are officially on Summer Break. Registration for the new school year of 2024-2025 will be in August. Dates to follow.

Looking back at this school year, Tom and I feel blessed. We have the best group of dedicated Catechists, a caring group of High School Helpers, happy students and families who live their faith each day with their children and want to learn more about their Catholic faith. How wonderful is that!

Happy and safe summer.

Diane Nagle
