

**St Francis de Sales
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
Meeting Minutes - March 18, 2025, 7pm
SFdS School Cafeteria**

Attendance – John Bruening, Fr Mike Nartker, Bro Paul Hoffman, John Mitchell, Lee Burroughs, Rosemary Byes, Woody Widman, David Hulefeld, Mary Kishman

Absent – Holly Schwein

1. **Welcome & Opening Prayer** – Brother Paul led the group in an opening prayer. John welcomed Woody Widman to the our council. Mary Kishman will assume secretarial duties. Thanks to Scott Gueterman for his service to the council.
2. **Finance Update**
 - John Mitchell stated **collections** for the last 8 months (July 2024 – February 2025) were only \$1200 off budget which is an improvement. John attributed this to increased attendance and generosity.
 - A committee was formed to develop the policies & procedures for the **Dr Hartman Scholarship Fund** for 8th grade students at SFdS school who wish to attend a Catholic high school. Members included John Bruening, John Keegan, representatives from St Ursula (SU) and Purcell Marian (PM) and others. The SU and PM representatives provided valuable input about types of scholarships and common policies/procedures. The fund will award four \$5000 scholarships each year. Students may renew the scholarship annually through their Senior year if they meet the stated requirements. The Hartman fund will have an \$80,000 maximum annually when fully implemented. The committee is finalizing the processes. Currently CISE awarded 9 scholarships to SFdS students however 18-19 expressed interest in attending a Catholic high school. It was clear the need was great for the Hartman funds.
 - Parish Council voted unanimously to approve this scholarship program.
3. **Synod Task Force Update** – An 8 member task force has been formed to review the findings from the parish **SYNOD Listening Sessions** and develop an action plan for the betterment of the parish. The first meeting is April 1st. Committee members are Jean Bange, Brother Paul Hoffman, David Hulefeld, Peg Smyth, Margaret Szempruch, Tori Vogelgesang, Jim Vogt, and John Mitchell.
4. **HELP Program/Drive to Thrive Update** – The current **HELP program** has been dissolved. HELP considered merging with the **Drive to Thrive** program; it is uncertain if this will occur. The parish will NOT provide any funding or support for HELP or Drive to Thrive. HELP is moving out of the parish basement. Once moved out the locks will be changed. Numerous factors lead to this decision including financial concerns, Wilson’s serious health issues, and inadequate board oversight. Regrettably Wilson was essentially doing all the tasks for HELP which contributed to some of these issues. John Mitchell noted there is still an outstanding \$100,000 line of credit and the organization involved in finding employment has filed for bankruptcy. John has been told the line of

credit will be forgiven. Parish council will continue to monitor the program to ensure they are moved etc. If circumstances change or new opportunities arise the council may revisit this program. Father stated some outside groups have inquired about using the basement spaces. He would prefer the space be used by the parish. No final decision was made.

5. **School Window/HVAC Update** – John Bruening approached several firms about **replacing the windows**; 125-127 windows need to be replaced. Pella and Anderson do not make the large windows desired. John also approached McAndrews Glass. This company was more reasonable and has considerable experience with schools. The windows would be aluminum style. John is awaiting the final proposal. Once the school windows are replaced, the rectory windows will be replaced. The same company will be used. Bids have not been obtained for the **HVAC** system. A **Bill of Materials** for a **VRF** system is needed. In the past a department at the University of Dayton (UD) did some assessment work for us. John Bruening asked David Hulefeld to see if UD would be willing to prepare a Bill of Materials for a VRF system. Once this is completed, approval from Finance Committee is needed.
6. **School Security** – John Bruening approached the firm doing security for 5th 3rd bank to get an idea about the cost of **cameras and access for 3 doors**. An unofficial quote of \$17,831 was given not counting labor. John estimated the total cost would be \$50,000. The school principal wants the school technology person involved. Father stated CISE will provide some funds for this work. After the windows are completed, John will address safety and include the principal as well as the technology person. Policies and procedures need to be developed as well. Currently Purcell Marian and Mercy Neighborhood Ministries have some policies and communicate with us when issues arise.
7. **School Issues from School Principal** – A **new split system** is needed for the server room. The cost is \$8150.00 (\$4750 labor, \$3400 equipment). Joanne sought funds from EANS but was denied. She would also like a **new sign**. Repairs for the current sign would be \$4100. The council discussed getting a new digital sign that could be used by both the school and church. A digital sign (4mm) costs \$10,000. More investigation is needed before a decision is made.
8. **Parish Updates/Archdiocese Report**
 - Attendance is OK, numbers dropped slightly during snow events.
 - The **Bokenketter Awards** and **Volunteer Fair** went well.
 - The new Lenten format for Mass, Simple Supper and Adoration also went well. The rectory was a wonderful location to encourage community.
 - Mercy Neighborhood Ministries major fund raiser **Hoops & Hops** is this Saturday 3/22 at 6pm.
 - Townscapes is coordinating and funding the repair of gate on Madison Avenue damaged during snow removal.
 - **Gloria Sweet** will return to the office Monday following her trip to Panama for family concerns.

- **Upcoming Parish Events** include 1) Brunch and Learn, March 30 after 11am mass, 2) Nature trip to Mount St. John April 6 after 830 mass, 3) Xavier University Concert April 6 at 730pm.
 - The **new archbishop** will be installed April 3, 2025. The council thought it would be nice gesture to create a large greeting card and have parishioners sign it.
9. **Ukraine Statement** - The council briefly talked about the Ukraine statement and the need to separate **Church and State**. Did we violate the separation with the statement?? Also, the intentions (Prayers of the Faithful) often have a political tone. Brother Paul will more closely monitor the intentions. He will also send a message to writers of the intentions to use care when crafting so the intentions honor **separation of Church and State**.
10. **Beacons of Light** – Father stated there is much resistance in the churches in the Families to collaborate with each other. Father stated overall our parish is in wonderful shape due in part to our Marianist Charisms. Our official status as an independent parish has not been published yet.
11. **Open Discussion**
- Lee Burroughs stated the edges of the **steps** need to be painted for safety. Also, John Bruening stated some of the **steps** need concrete work.
 - Members notes that some **church doors** leak and others do not close properly. John Mitchell will reach out to his son -in-law who works for HCG construction to see if they can repair the doors.
 - John Bruening stated some of the **tile** needs to be replaced by one of the doors. He has not been able to determine if there are some tiles in storage. Terry the facilities manager could not help.
 - John stated Terry, is very dedicated but only wants to work 12 hrs per week; the church and school need more. Perhaps we need to consider replacing Terry. No decision was made about Terry.
12. **Next Meeting** – Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kishman

Mary Kishman

Attachments

- Agenda
- Pastoral Team Report
- Mass Attendance Report