

**St. Francis de Sales Parish February 18, 2025
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
7:00PM - SFdS School Cafeteria**

Present: John Bruening, Lee Burroughs, Holly Schwein, Rosemary Byes, Father Mike Nartker, and Bro. Pal Hoffman.

Absent: John Mitchell, Mary Kishman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Bro. Paul opened the meeting with prayer.

John Bruening requested that Bro. Paul would take the minutes for this meeting. At the next meeting Council will discuss who will become the new secretary in light of Scott Gueterman resigning from Council. Mary Kishman will be approached first to see if she wishes to become secretary.

School Update

John Bruening will e-mail the school report submitted by Joanne to Bro. Paul for the minutes. The full report is Appendix 1 at the end of these minutes.

Father Mike mentioned that the mother of Sarah Francis, the school secretary died last week in Summerset, Kentucky.

Windows And HVAC Update/Roof Flashing

John Bruening reported after difficulty working with Pella and Anderson, he contacted Troy McAndrews regarding the school windows. This contact and their review and window measurements of the school windows were very positive and he hopes to have a quote for the March Finance Council meeting. The HVAC system will be addressed after the windows are replaced. John has been in contact with Dan Imbus regarding the flashing repairs on the school roof. This repair is needed due to the weather and wind conditions.

School Hallways/Painting And Lighting

John stated that there are areas in the school where plaster is falling, walls need painting, and lighting needs to be replaced. He would like to start these repairs as soon as possible---perhaps during school breaks on one or more areas at a time. The Finance Council will need to be advised on school lighting matters before that work can proceed.

HELP Program

Bro. Paul reported that The HELP Program, as we have known it, will no longer exist and merge with *Drive To Thrive*. The program will move out of the Rectory basement in the coming weeks and will change their mailing address to the garage location. Wilson Willard will operate the employment referral portion of the program from his home. They will not be receiving any monies from the Bokenkotter Fund this year since their request related to staffing, which no longer exists. The parish's support of *Drive To Thrive* is an open question which will require ongoing discussion. An announcement to the parish will be made at the masses this coming Sunday. The security of the rectory and collection of keys is of the utmost importance as the program exists in the parish space.

Finance Updates/Grants

John Mitchell was not present at this evening's meeting being out of town, and the Finance Council will meet this Thursday. There was no current report and there are no current urgent financial matters facing the parish.

The next meeting to address the Dr. Rae Hartman inheritance to the parish and the student funding for Catholic secondary school education will take place on Tuesday, March 4 in the rectory.

Parish Updates/Archdiocese Report

Bro. Paul offered a report regarding events and other matters which have taken place over the last month. Refer to Appendix 2 for this information.

Bro. Paul did state that everyone should be aware of Pope Francis' appointment of Bishop Robert Casey of the Archdiocese of Chicago to become the next Archbishop of Cincinnati. He will be installed sometime this coming spring. It appears his appointment has been received well.

Beacons Of Light, Parish News & Marianist Values

Father Mike reported that there is nothing new to report regarding *Beacons Of Light* over the past month.

Regarding the parish and Marianist activities, the presentations on Mary will begin this Sunday after the 11:00 A.M. mass. He plans to have a day at Bergamo/Mount St. John (Marianist Property) for reflection and enjoying the property on a Saturday sometime this spring. There is a weekend retreat planned at Governor's Island from May 16-18.

Open Discussion/June Grand Opening Event

Pastoral Council will need to begin discussion and planning of the Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 22 at our March Council meeting.

This meeting of the Pastoral Council was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bro. Paul Hoffman, S.M.
Recorder For This Meeting

Appendix 1

Rooted in Faith

- We just completed a successful Catholic Schools Week, not impacted by the weather (a first!). Beginning with an Open House on Sunday, Jan. 26 (thank you to Jinny for attending!) We toured 14 prospective scholars (and/or their families), concentrated primarily in PK, K, and 7th grade.
- Scholars will go to mass with their buddy class at the PM chapel for the month of February. Father continues to praise scholars' behavior at participation at our school masses, which is noteworthy:-)
- We continue to implement our schoolwide SFDS Virtues in Practice Program. Scholars in grades 5 - 8 also learn a monthly prayer dedicated to that specific virtue (ie. February we are practicing the virtue of "diligence" and learning about St. Rita)

Achieving Excellence

- Our scholars just completed their second of three rounds of MAP testing. Scholars who met two of their Winter MAP goals (ELA, Math, and or Science) will be treated to a movie incentive next Friday.
- Our staff will meet for our next PD on Monday, Feb. 10 to review Winter MAP data and plan for the second half of the school year. We are going to the Hamilton County Ed Center for this PD (a first!) and it will be led by our two Hamilton County Instructional Coaches. We will also host a second, collaborative CISE PD with Coryville Catholic and St. Francis Seraph on March 3; teachers will again meet with content and grade-level colleagues to review best practice instructional practices, and create pacing guides for their content area, led by various Hamilton County Instructional Coaches.
- Select scholars in grades 3 - 8 will attend a Step Afrika performance at the Aronoff on March 11 as a culminating second trimester incentive for positive behavior and meeting weekly, digital content provide goals.
- And as I previously shared, Fr. Mike identified a need to create some parameters around Dr. Rae's future Scholarship and very generous donation and we have since formed a committee, under John Mitchell's direction, met, and that seems to be moving in a positive direction!

Serving Others

- We continue to host our monthly family engagement activities, the next taking place next Thursday. In celebration of Black History, this month's activity is going to be themed "Unity, Family, and Friendship" and will celebrate various aspects of Black History. These evenings continue to be a positive community-building activity at a low cost (\$5 commitment fee) to our families.

- As I previously reported, the 7th and 8th-grade scholars continue to have a service hour requirement as a component of our religion class. I love hearing about their initiatives and seeing how they are contributing to the school community as well.
- And as I believe I reported in November, we were able to bring our unique schoolwide service project to fruition (a little later than planned, impacted by Christmas break and then the weather); each grade level had a unique contribution to collectively assemble brown bag lunches for St. Francis Seraph Ministries as a culmination to Catholic Schools Week.

Appendix 2

St. Francis de Sales Parish
 Pastoral Team Report
 Tuesday, February 18, 2025

***Parish Sunday attendance for January was 935, down nine from January 2024. The 8:30 A.M. mass averaged 103 and the 11:00 A.M. mass averaged 130. The weekly average was 233.

***Regarding Sunday attendance, we are down due to two bad weather Sundays when the snow first came in the morning, and little could be done to clear the lots and the city streets.

***The outer gate by the school cafeteria was bent by snow plowing the lot last Tuesday. Townescapes have taken responsibility for this and will pay for the repair. Terry Meinking knows the company who installed it and will reach out to them for the repair.

***Father Mike will begin his series of presentations on Mary beginning this Sunday (February 23) after the 11:00 A.M. mass and they will continue into Sundays in March.

***The Thomas Bokenkotter awards will be given on Sunday, March 2 and we will have Donuts on that Sunday as a reception event. They will be given out to five organizations, excluding The HELP Program.

***The Parish Volunteer Fair will be held on Sunday, March 9 with that also be a Donut Sunday to entice parishioners to attend. This will take place in the school cafeteria.

***Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season is on Wednesday, March 5 with our mass at 5:30 P.M. in the church.

***Beginning on Wednesday, March 12, we will begin our Wednesday Lenten Masses and light dinners in the church and the dinners in the rectory kitchen/dining room/living room. This is due to the Purcell Marian chapel and atrium not being available. Following the dinners, there will be adoration in the church and a speaker who will share for a few minutes on a Lenten topic. Proceeding with this method keeps the foot travel from place to place at a minimum.