**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

**Minutes**

**January 11, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.**

Attendance:

*Council members*: Fr. Suresh, Rodney Savidge, Evert Garcia, Mary Coates, Lisa Ley, Eden Laranjo, Mark Tejares, Nadine LeBlanc, Juanita Gaudet, Shelley Knorr.

Regrets: Neyda Long, Maricar Martin

*Non council members*: Patty Cameron (Faith Formation), Myra Torralba (Couples for Christ), Bernadet Samulski (Finance Council)

1. Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgment Statement (Father Suresh)
2. Agenda
   1. approved with two additions:
      1. Under “New Pastoral Items” – Annual General Meeting
      2. Other
   2. Nadine will send out a request for agenda items one week prior to the executive meeting where the agenda is set.
3. Minutes of December 7, 2023 approved
4. Meeting Process to Observe and Follow (Evert)
   1. Will have a round table discussion for each topic as applicable with each person having a chance to voice their thoughts.
   2. Will limit discussion of each topic to 15 minutes.
5. Business Arising:
   1. Communications/Updates
      1. CIL Disciple Maker Index Survey (Father Suresh)
         1. Response rate of 20% for our parish. 135 respondents
         2. Results expected in February.
         3. Next steps will involve selecting parishioners to journey with the priests, to be mentored.
            1. 2 hr online workshop
            2. Meeting with the priest monthly
            3. Meeting with the CIL group quarterly
      2. Christmas Party Update (Father Suresh & Lisa)
         1. Approximately 30 parishioners attended, and a great time was had by all
      3. Projector at St. John and Paul Church (Father Suresh)
         1. Recap of the meeting by Fr. Suresh
         2. Decision to remove the projector until a choir can be organized.
         3. Advertising in bulletin for a choir director
      4. Update of the new Ministry of Communication (Evert)
         1. Will be meeting with the office staff to determine what is being done currently.
         2. Will then meet with the volunteers who indicated an interest in this area to identify ways to enhance what is currently being done.
   2. Consultation
      1. Ministries Liaison Appointment (Father Suresh)
         1. Reviewed various ministries.
         2. Determined need to identify which ministries are already established – Nadine will gather this information.
         3. Will discuss Liaison role at next council meeting.
      2. Constitution Update – Ad Hoc (Father Suresh)
         1. Determined that the draft constitution needs to be reviewed. Rodney Savidge, Neyda Long and Maricar Martin were appointed to review and bring back to the next meeting.
6. Comments from Father Suresh
   1. Requested that council members communicate with Fr. Suresh directly with any issues/concerns. This will help to build trust.
   2. Requested that council members have a private email for communications regarding council business, that no one else has access to.
7. New Pastoral items:
   1. Consultation
      1. Daycare – New Maryland (Father Suresh)
         1. Request received to rent the rectory and the basement of the church for a daycare business.
            1. Daycare is willing to do renovations and share the cost of heating and snow removal.
         2. Discussion resulted in a consensus of approval with the following concerns raised.
            1. Access to bathrooms; would potentially need to build upstairs.
            2. Funeral receptions would not be able to be held at the church. Concern re: finding another venue that would be cost efficient. Suggestion to inquire with the New Maryland Centre and Victoria Hall.
         3. Proposal will need to be approved by the Diocese.
      2. Annual General Meeting
         1. Bernadet requested a combined report from Pastoral Council and Finance Council be written as was done prior to Covid. Executives of both councils to coordinate.
         2. Date to be set for April.
8. Committee Reports
   1. Finance Council
      1. Investments have been reviewed and no changes made at this time. Plan to meet with the investment advisor for the parish.
      2. The committee for Maintenance and Properties is doing an inventory of all church properties, including cemeteries to determine current needs.
   2. Couples for Christ
      1. Currently 25 families involved from the Fredericton area. Family groups meet at least twice monthly for prayer and fellowship.
      2. Kids for Christ, Youth for Christ and Singles for Christ are seeing significant growth.
      3. The First Fruits Offering is the very first activity of the year - it is a ceremony of honoring God with our first harvests of the year. It will be held at Sts John & Paul church on Jan 20.
      4. Evangelization gatherings are planned for various cities throughout the Diocese this year.
9. Other
   1. Received feedback from a parishioner that the sound quality on the live stream mass was not good.
   2. Suggested to give a bit more information for “new” types of events being held in the parish and advertised in the bulletin.
   3. Explanation given by Fr. Suresh regarding the change in term from “eucharistic” minister to “communion” minister. He will put a note in the bulletin explaining the change.
   4. Need to be more aware of consistency with language around “parish” and “church” in the bulletin as well as any correspondence.
10. Closing Prayer (Father Suresh).

Date/Time next meeting: February 8, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.