

**St. Eugene Congregation  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 20th, 2022**

Present: Fr. Mark Payne, Dan Gabler, James Wawrzyn, Bill Hudson, Tom Anderson, Dave Saggio, Heidi Quinn, Kathleen Roling, Eileen Placek, and Kate Gould

Excused: John Pienkos, Nick Dhein

Guests: None

James Wawrzyn led the Council in an opening "Our Father" prayer, and highlighted a reflection from the Knights to Christ booklet.

The council approved the minutes from its October 25, 2022 meeting.

Town Hall Meeting discussion ensued:

Kathleen Roling stated that many comments from the Town Hall meeting were focused on the current ministries and formation and improving them. In addition, there were many questions about the Liturgical Ministry director. A way forward is to encourage volunteers and have staffing to operate ministries. Surprisingly, Kathleen noted there wasn't much interest in the sanctuary renovation.

Heidi Quinn also noted that most parishioners were interested in formation, especially children's. Discussion about the sanctuary renovation was minimal. However, parishioners do want accountability of the capital campaign funds.

Dave Saggio commented about the accountability of the last capital campaign and the importance of being transparent. Parishioners need to trust the institution. Dave stated that once parishioners have satisfaction with the accounting of the last capital campaign including the funds set aside for the sanctuary renovation, they will be happier.

James Wawrzyn commented that everyone needs formation, from the most devout to the least. Our parish needs to have occasions to pull people closer. Kathleen is hosting Trivia Night which brings people together.

Eileen Placek noted that there was a complete accounting of the last capital campaign published in the bulletin but parishioners may have forgotten about it. Eileen mentioned that parishioners at the Town Hall commented that you no longer see the youth present at mass anymore and how they would like to see more youth participation. Eileen also noted that Fr. Mark was well received at the Town Hall meeting.

Bill Hudson confirmed from the Town Hall meeting that fundamentally it is FORMATION for my children and myself that parishioners are most interested in. This is a wonderful opportunity for leadership focused on what God wants, not what we want. Communication of what formation opportunities are available to parishioners and how they sign up is of vital importance. Bill mentioned there were many comments from parishioners about making the mass more reverent. Bill also reiterated what Dave Saggio mentioned in regards to accountability with the previous capital campaign.

-Bill stated that currently mass attendance is around 600 people total for the weekend masses. 2018 was a high point for mass attendance at around 1000 people.

Fr. Mark - Christmas is a great time to shine along with funerals and weddings. If you connect with the family, they come back to church. It could also be beneficial for St. Eugene parishioners to mention to others that Fr. Mark is the priest on "The Heart of the Nation" Sunday t.v. mass and invite them to St. Eugene's to hear him.

-Fr. Mark realizes that we need a point person for the communications, Flocknote.

-Fr. Mark stated that we will be hiring an adult and family minister for formation.

-Fr. Mark plans on focusing 2023 on building a strategic plan and implementing it.

-There has been a great turnout of lectors, eucharistic ministers, and families taking on the social aspects after the 8:30 am mass.

Dan Gabler was absent from the Town Hall meetings but mentioned St. Patrick's cathedral uses QR codes similar to restaurants. This is a communication tool that could be utilized at St. Eugenes.

Tom Anderson mentioned bringing back pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinner, events that build community.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Gould  
Secretary