

St. Francis Xavier
Parish Council Meeting
September 12, 2023

Members Present: Father Dale Cieslik, Louis Leppert, Sandee Clark, Nancy Collett, Joey Followay, Gerry Gonzalez, Pattie Mattingly, Keith Meyer, Matt O'Connor, Ed Scott, Paula Silliman, James Underwood, Chris Williams

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Deacon Earl Baker; Jordan Bennett, Music Minister of Cedar Grove Baptist Church

Meeting opened with prayer.

Briefing on Church in Dialogue Event

Jordan Bennett, the Music Minister of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, explained the purpose of participating in a Joint Worship Event called *The Church in Dialogue*. It helps participants learn more about Christians in other denominations and works toward the goal of Christian unity.

He described upcoming events with other denominations in Kentucky in partnership with Mark 12 Ministries. He distributed an informational flyer and answered clarifying questions from council members. He invited members of St. Francis Xavier to attend these events and hopefully one day participate in one of the Dialogue events.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Lou Leppert directed a review of the June, 2023 minutes. Keith Meyers moved the minutes to be approved as written; Matt O'Connor seconded; all in favor. Minutes were approved as written.

Pastor's Report

Father Dale talked about the benefits and importance of ecumenical practice. He explained that it joins and recognizes commonalities among different Christian denominations. After listening to Jordan Bennett speak, it seems there hasn't been much participation from the Catholic faith. Father asked the council to discern the request of Jordan Bennet for our parish to participate in an event. We will discuss it at our next meeting.

Deacon Earl shared information about our current participation in Mark 12 Ministries, which is our common link with Cedar Grove Baptist Church.

Father Dale gave an update on our Parish Business Manager, Helen Hagan, and asked for prayer for her recovery.

Father will conduct mass at local nursing homes on September 14 at Green Meadows and on October 26 at Sander's Ridge.

Father extended congratulations to Paula Silliman, our Pastoral Associate, for receiving her Certificate in Theology and Ministry through the Loyola Institute of Ministry.

Upcoming Staff Birthdays:

October 2 - Marda Weakley

October 6 - Jennifer Sweeney

October 8 - Bobby Grace

St. Francis Xavier will host the Priests of the Archdiocese on Tuesday, Oct. 24 in the church and Xavier Center for the Fall Convocation from 9:30am - 3:00pm.

Father Bob Stuempel and Father Bob Ray will sub for Father Dale while he is in Ireland and England later this month. Please welcome them.

There are two upcoming weddings at our church:

September 16 - The O'Connell - Siegel wedding

October 7 - The Perrin - Ballard wedding

Deacon Earl will lead the Blessing of the Animals on October 7 at 6:30 pm.

Father Dale gave members a copy of a letter from Archbishop Shelton about the Eucharistic Congress that will be held next summer in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The letter is to promote the gathering, which is expected to have 80,000 Catholics from around the United States. More information about the event will be shared with the parish in the fall and winter.

Give Catholic fundraising event is a nationwide Day of Giving that takes place on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 21). Each participating parish selects a specific project for which they would like to raise funds. Our project is the remodeling of the Religious Education Building.

Father Dale's other duties include:

Trip to Ireland and England September 20 - October 7.

Priests' Support Group at St. Francis Xavier on October 10 at 1:00

St. Meinrad Alumni Board Meeting on October 15-16

Retreat at St. Meinrad Monastery October 16-20

Vacation February 19-23, 2024

Retreat at St. Meinrad Monastery March 4-8, 2024

Old Business

Father Dale gave an update on the Facilities position. One person was hired but resigned after one week. Then, Aaron Richardson was hired five weeks ago. Bobby Grace is helping train Aaron as a full-time person and then Bobby will step into the part-time position.

There was discussion about the Give Catholic event, presented earlier in the meeting by Father Dale. Members talked about best practice for promoting the event.

New Business

Lou Leppert welcomed new members to the Council. James Underwood and Gerry Gonzalez will serve until 2026, Sandy Clark will serve until 2025, and Lisa Reid will serve as alternate member.

Committee Reports

Administration

- Chris Williams reported that the campus fire alarm integration will happen this week by Assured Asset Protection.
- HMC has provided a quote for the annual HVAC inspection of the Xavier Center.
- We are taking quotes for campus pest control service.
- New whiteboards are being installed in the Religious Ed classrooms as requested by Lauren Battcher.
- There is a new women's book study called Margaritas with Mary being facilitated by parishioner Lisa Reed. 29 women have registered for it.
- The annual Golf Scramble is next week. Registration is still open.
- We are off to a good start financially and are above budget in giving right now.
- Sign-o-Rama will provide our campus signage
- There will be no AuctionFest this year.
- Trunk or Treat will be in October and will include a chili supper.
- The Taste of St Francis will be in February. The planning committee is currently meeting regularly for that.
- There will be a New Year's Eve Dance and tickets will go on sale November 1.

Formation

Paula Silliman reported the following:

- There were 22 high school youth students present for the kickoff event. 27 students are registered this year for the youth group.
- High School Youth will host a donut fellowship next weekend between masses.
- They have finished four different clean-up jobs to raise money for their retreat
- High School Youth will start collecting for Christmas Baskets in October.
- 129 students have registered for Religious Education this year.
- There are about 18 children participating in children's church between all the masses.
- OCIA has two adults and five children
- Men's Fellowship with Deacon Earl meets monthly and had nine men present last month.

Parish Life

Nancy Collette reported that:

- Monthly donut Sundays return on August 20
- The SFX Golf Scramble will be held on September 17 at Tanglewood Golf Course.

- Hear It for the Spirit will be on September 24. Dave Richardson from high school youth program will grill.
- Women's Club Bunco will be September 28.
- There will be a Life and Estate Planning meeting on October 1 presented by the Tillman Law Office.
- Women's Club Bazaar will be in the Xavier Center on November 4.
- The Senior Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 12 hosted by the Children's Faith Formation.
- Family Movie Night in the Xavier Center will be December 1. Lisa Reed and other volunteers will coordinate a Christmas movie night with activities.
- Trivia Night in the Xavier Center will be hosted by the High School Youth group on January 13.
- The Senior Valentine's Dinner will be February 17 hosted by Children's Faith Formation.
- SummerFest and Supper Raffle Drawing will be June 8.
- The Knights of Columbus Fish Fry dates are: Nov. 17; Dec. 15; Jan 19; Feb 16-Mar 22 for Lent
- The Catholic Men's Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month led by Deacon Earl Baker
- Women's Bible Study of Mary is the last Tuesday of each month led by Lisa Reed.
- Xavier Center Activities: Monday through Friday from 9am-12pm Walking Track is open; Men's Basketball is on Sunday afternoons; Pickleball is on Thursday evenings.

Stewardship

Ed Scott reported that:

- The recent census narrowed our parish down from 800 families to 570.
- The Stewardship Committee is currently recruiting new members
- The Archdiocese hosted a workshop focusing on who we are as a parish and defining who we want to become over time. Members of the committee attended.
- We will skip the Ministry Fair in 2024 and focus on establishing better communication between ministry groups.

Worship

Joey Followay reported that the Worship Committee meets next Tuesday for the first time since May.

The meeting closed in prayer.

The next Parish Council Meeting is November 14, 2023 at 6:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dana Steinmetz, Pastoral Council Secretary