

St. Maximilian Kolbe Pastoral Council Meeting
Large Conference Room

February Minutes
February 3, 2021 – 7:00-9:00 PM

Pastoral Council Members Present

Dennis Blake
Adam Gecewich
Daren Keenan

Cathy Marksteiner
Chuck Michael
Ellen Paxton – Chair
John Prince

Kathie Grace Roberts
Lisa Schafer
Rose Wiedenmann

Pastoral Council Members Absent

Rich Inman

Notable Others:

Fr. Jim Riehle – Pastor
Staff – Lakme Kodros
Evangelization and Catechesis Commission – Andrew Tebbe
Outreach Commission – Shari Skorcz
Parish Life and Stewardship Commission – Tony Ferraro
Worship and Sacraments Commission – Yuki Lauber
Finance Council – Keith Gehring
Recording Secretary – Dena Moulton

- **Opening Prayer / Mission Statement** (PC is praying for Outreach Commission in February)
- **Formation** – “The Search” Episode 5 (Dennis Blake led this discussion)
 - Episode 6, March, John Prince will lead discussion
 - Episode 7, April, Kathy Roberts will lead discussion
- **Pastor’s Report** – (Fr. Jim)
 - ✓ A Day of Mercy was held on January 21 from 7:00am-9:30pm; Priests were available for Confession; A steady stream of Penitents, approximately 200 people, took advantage of this opportunity
 - ✓ A Day of Penance was held on January 22 with Eucharistic Adoration all day, Fr. Simon Peter gave a reflection during benediction
 - ✓ Sarah Merkel provided January Mass attendance numbers; Average weekend Mass attendance was 2500 – 2600 people; 1200-1400 in person; others watched online
 - ✓ “St. Patrick’s” room – The large conference room will be blessed and dedicated on St. Patrick’s Day in honor of our twinning relationship
 - ✓ Our traditional summer festival will not take place this year due to the Covid pandemic; \$60,000 raised for St. Max during last year’s fall movie night event; This summer we will hold a similar event ‘Celebrate St. Max’ - it will be held on the feast day of St. Max, August 14; This event will be similar to last fall’s event with a few additions, including major awards raffle, basket bonanza, games, food and more. (due to the late sunset, a movie will not be shown)
 - ✓ OxPlow – completion; 161 original Catechists plus additional 25 have all received their OxPlow; additional money is available for replacement oxen and equipment
 - ✓ Staff – twice per year staff have an evaluation; they are currently meeting with the pastoral associate of their quadrant
 - ✓ Raise the Roof raffle; all parishioners should have received tickets to buy or sell; There will be 11 winners; Main winner receives 10% of the proceeds, 10 people will receive 1% of the proceeds; drawing will be virtual and live streamed on Tuesday, February 16
 - ✓ Roof issues: Connection from the roof drain to the downspout line on the west side of the church broke and damaged the drywall on the ceiling and near the St. Joseph statue and reconciliation

room. The cause of this leak has nothing to do with the age of the roof and the damage will be covered by insurance.

- ✓ New staff member hired, Annette Hamlin will be our bookkeeper
- ✓ Pope Francis declared this the year of St. Joseph beginning on December 8; (March is the month of St. Joseph; March 19 his feast day) Sarah Merkel has made St. Joseph prayer cards
- ✓ Fish Fry will be drive through this year – no dine in option; Menu offering is limited: 3 pieces of beer battered cod, hush puppies, seasoned fries and homemade coleslaw for \$10. Preorder available
- ✓ Stations of the Cross will be available in the church

➤ **Lightning Round / Committee Updates**

- ❖ **Twining Liaison** (Dennis Blake)
 - Need for an additional 25 pen pals, so if anyone has not selected one yet or know someone that would like to help, please let Dennis know
 - The current major project is to get the school building completed. Remaining to be finished is the interior ceiling which is estimated at \$5380 and the Solar Panel for lights estimated at \$3500
 - Ongoing and the next major project will be the completion of the Church itself. Based on the items still remaining to be completed we are estimating the need for roughly \$21000
- ❖ **Campus Safety Subcommittee** (Cathy)
 - There is a renewed enthusiasm and sense of purpose within this group in an effort to be sure our Church is a safe place for worship
- ❖ **Stations of the Cross – PC night – February 19** (Ellen)
 - 7:30pm; Ellen, Cathy, Rose and Lisa have volunteered to lead
- ❖ **Basket for ‘Festival’** (Ellen)
 - For the raffle, Oakley themed basket is possible with Daren as our lead; PC will be asked to chip in; Daren will give us a monetary target
- ❖ **Together We Grow update** (Fr. Jim)
 - Met with architects in person; design and construction phase; this phase ends in May and will go out for bid; August or September to break ground; still a gap in pledges – Fr. will approach previous donors, those that said no before and new parishioners; need \$500,00 to close gap; hoping to approach the smaller group for \$250,000 and then approach larger group to fund remaining \$250,000
 - \$600,00 remaining from original pledges; It is a struggle to follow up with Parishioners that Fr. doesn’t personally know
 - From our large parish, only 610 donor families have pledged towards this effort
- ❖ **Listening Session follow up discussion** (Rich and Chuck)
 - Need input from next month on ideas for moving forward
- ❖ **Discernment** (Rose and Lisa)
 - Commissions and Councils; all three video spots filled for witnesses
 - Each Commission needs to identify a liaison. Names and emails are to be sent to Sarah and Lisa
 - Finance Council – 0 positions open
 - Pastoral Council – 4 positions open
 - Outreach Commission - 8 positions open
 - Worship and Sacraments Commission – 5 positions open
 - Parish Life and Stewardship - 5 positions open
 - Evangelization & Catechesis - 6 or 7 positions open
- ❖ **Fundraising Request**; HS youth ministry group, flower sale, Feb 13 and Sun 14; after each Mass they will take flower orders Mother’s Day; unanimous approval for this fundraiser
- ❖ **MAP process**: First group of documents has been received by Mary Ella; review of 2020 MAPS – who will take the lead from PC? Volunteer will be requested at next meeting

- ❖ **The Path Strategic Plan – Initial discussion (Fr. Jim and Ellen)**
 - Fr. Jim’s suggested guidance to consider while moving forward, planning and making decisions
 - ✓ Why does Saint Max exist: The plain and simple reality is that we exist as a parish to help our parishioners get to heaven. To quote the old Baltimore Catechism: “God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in Heaven.”
Every parish exists to help Catholics discover that truth
Every priest’s vocation rests on helping those he serves come to know that truth
 - ✓ How do we do this?
 - Pray the Mass (Sacrifice, Beauty)
 - Know and Love God (Catechesis, Stewardship, Devotion)
 - Love and Serve each other (Works of Mercy, Fellowship, Matthew 25, Evangelize)
 - ✓ **Is what we are doing helping in this mission and building up this culture?**
 - ✓ If not, why are we doing it?
 - Objective: Why does PC exist? What actions will move this parish forward; The Path document is now 10 years old; this is a starting place for discussion; the dynamics of our parish have changed; what is our path forward now? How do we get people back to Church? We have challenge of a small number of Priests compared with a large number of Parishioners
 - Discipleship – say yes to faith, this spreads through witness; witness of martyrs; look at how they love each other – example of Christians to one another
 - Fr. Jim, Ellen, Lisa, Daren and Chuck – will form a subcommittee to give an initial review of the Path

Council/Commission Updates

Finance Council – (Keith Gehring)

Financial Report Fiscal Year-To-Date as of December 31, 2020

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Favorable (Unfavorable) \$ Variance</u>	<u>Favorable (Unfavorable) % Variance</u>
Total Income	<u>\$1,126,999</u>	<u>\$982,383</u>	<u>\$144,616</u>	14.7
Total Expenses:				
General & Administrative	726,550	795,155	68,605	8.6
Ministry & Liturgy	26,972	38,822	11,851	30.5
Religious Formation	24,656	58,740	34,084	58.0
Outreach	4,272	10,075	5,803	57.6
Facilities	127,713	147,240	19,527	13.26
Fundraising	19,998	1,500	(18,498)	(1,2333)
Capital	3,813	3,275	(539)	(16.5)
Total	<u>933,974</u>	<u>1,054,807</u>	<u>120,833</u>	11.5
Net Income	\$193,025	\$(72,424)	\$265,449	

Note: Sunday Collections of \$865,589 are over budget by \$81,716. 56% from Faith Direct. Working to pull more into FD.

Dec-20	
Faith Direct Total	\$83,517
Envelope Total	\$72,663
Total	\$156,180

The Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget reflects Revenue in excess of Expenses in the amount of \$22K. Income Budget of \$2.180M and Expense Budget of \$2.158M.

Finance Council Areas of Focus and Reporting for FY 2021

- Monitor and report ongoing results of *Together We Grow* campaign.
 - We currently have \$796,917 in available funds for the project. \$780,552 is invested in an AOC note currently earning 1.6% interest. The remaining \$16,365 is invested in accounts at PNC Bank to be used for immediate needs. 50% of cash on hand to build shell. Need more pledges.
 - Pledges total \$3,459,392; \$2,841,375 (82%) collected as of 12-31-2020. Expect \$158K from AOC.
 - The Schematic Design phase of the project is completed. We are currently in the design development phase. The next step is construction documents.
- Balance of the Contingency Fund as of December 31 is \$111,800.
- **Need PC approval for Fire Panel at \$27,000.**

At the October PC meeting, PC voted for unanimous approval for \$15,000 - \$20,000 expenditure, guaranteed not to exceed \$20000 for a new Fire Panel. Larry is seeking permission for an additional \$7,000 to buy a more generic brand; Simplex equipment is currently in use and the original bid was for Simplex brand. Larry wants a different brand as this will allow St. Max not to be tied into one vendor; Keith Gehring says we have the resources for this expenditure; time frame for this purchase is ASAP.

Vote: PC voted to approve an expenditure for the Fire Panel of \$27,000 + or - 5%; All who voted were in favor; one person abstained from voting

➤ **Worship and Sacraments Commission**– (Yuki Lauber)

- Sunday 6:30am Mass continues for now
- Preparing for Lent
 - Ash Wednesday (2/17) Masses: 6:30, 8:30, 12:00, 7:30; Ashes will be sprinkled for those who wish to receive
 - Fridays: Stations of the Cross
 - Additional Penance time
- 2 new Lectionaries are ordered
- Altar servers will be back on Feb 6/7 Masses
- Music ministry will start back up practicing in small groups

➤ **Outreach Commission** – (Shari Skorcz)

- Updates: Faith Alliance
 - Talked about community suppers and need for churches to help or start their own
 - Looking for churches to join in food collections in February and participate in X Days community service
 - Talked about justserve.org volunteer database
 - Helpful for St. Max to refer people to this commission when they call looking for service projects, especially high schoolers who need hours
- Updates: Outreach Allocation Committee
 - February 11 is next allocation meeting
 - \$10,000 requested so far, won't be able to fulfill all requests
- Lenten project for St. Max: Parishioners may donate to 5 Local Charities (may donate to a general fund or restrict their donation to one of the 5 Charities listed)
 - ✓ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County
 - ✓ Companions on a Journey
 - ✓ Education Matters
 - ✓ Family Promise of Butler County
 - ✓ Hope's Closet

➤ **Parish Life and Stewardship Commission** – (Tony Ferraro)

- Feedback on Mass from Christmas: Many of the people who made reservations to attend a Mass did not show. We will not do RSVPs at Easter

➤ **Evangelization and Catechesis Commission** – (Andrew Tebbe)

- No report this month

➤ **Closing Prayer**