

**St. Monica Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 18, 2022 via Zoom**

Attendees: Fr. Paul Hartmann (P), Fr. Jordan Berghouse (AP), Sally Branigan (M), Bridie Moonie(M), Chris Ott (M), Chris O'Donoghue (VC-M), John Schreiber (T-M), Chris Meyer (C-M), Juliet Kersten (T-M); Lou Baureis (M)

I. Opening Prayer – Chris Ott

II. Approval of the Minutes:

- November 9, 2021 Meeting – Moved for approval by Chris O'Donoghue and adopted without change.
- December 14, 2021 Meeting – Moved for interim approval by Chris O'Donoghue (this to allow St. Eugene to review same) with only the deletion of Closing Prayer having been noted twice in original.

III. Commissions Report Out – Goals for Commissions

Update beyond the minutes (or quick summary of issues if no minutes)

Financial Council – Sally B/Chris S

Formation Commission – Bridie M

Human Concerns Commission – Lou B

School Commission- Chris Ott

Stewardship Commission – Eric H

Worship Commission – Emily B

Chris M. inquired of those members in attendance whether they have had the opportunity to meet with their liaison counterparts at St. Eugene's. Sally B. and Bridie M. have both had some communication through shared staff members. Chris Ott was unsuccessful in his attempts so far. Lou B. indicated he has not spoken with Chris Orzal his counterpart but would be doing so through his contacts at the Knights of Columbus, especially in anticipation of Lent.

IV. Pastor's Report

- Love One Another Capital Campaign Update
- Other items

Fr. Paul indicated *Strategic Planning* would begin in earnest most likely after St. Eugene completes the Capital Campaign which it has just begun.

Fr. Paul informed the Council that St. Monica's is just short of \$2.3M in pledges/contributions to the *Love One Another Capital Campaign*. The process of moving forward with processing distributions of funds to implement the capital improvements, such as security, is underway and may involve the Parish loaning itself money so work can begin in the summer months. This will be addressed through Finance Council. Fr. Paul thanked the Tri-Chairs of the Committee for the Campaign, Fr. Jordan, and, Anne Rice for their untiring efforts in making the Campaign a success.

Juliet asked about communication process in thanking donors and continuing to reach out to others in the Parish about giving. Fr. Paul expressed that the Campaign has not ended and that \$2.5M or so might be reached. That being the case, the *Parish's 100 Anniversary* will be occurring in 2024-2025 and consideration should be given to how to possibly address raising money for a

specific Parish project without overtaxing donors as the Campaign will be still be ongoing at that time.

Chris M. inquired of Fr. Paul whether *giving, as reported in the Bulletin, being down* approximately \$60K should be concerning. Fr. Paul indicated the deficit may be simply a matter of timing as currently the Parish is seemingly on budget. He noted that the Home & School funds have an impact and that compared to overall budget we are ahead. He will be meeting with Sue Devine this week to discuss same.

V. Old Items – no old items were revisited.

VI. New Items

*Discernment* for 2022-2023 looking at Dates Chris M. asked when *Discernment* should be scheduled for 2022. Fr. Paul stated it should be placed into its historical calendar placement, and thus take place in May. Chris M. noted Chris O’Donoghue, Chris Meyer, Emily Brennan are all up in 2022 and whether inquiry needs to be made as to whether they willing to continue serving.

Juliet K. inquired whether *Mass attendance* was down at Christmas and into January. Fr. Paul expressed some surprise that January attendance seemingly has been down. This may however be attributable to Christmas Holiday “exhaustion” and a spike in COVID. Juliet K. asked if there was anything we might do and if return to Mass/evangelization would be part of strategic planning. Yes, evangelization will be part of strategic planning. Chris M. asked if weekly Mass attendance was up. Both Fr. Paul and Fr. Jordan thought only marginally, i.e. probably back to pre-COVID numbers.

Lou B. raised the possibility of holding a fundraiser and prayer vigil/Mass for the Church in Kyrgyzstan for a Lenten project in lieu of Helping Hands. Fr. Paul pointed out at approximately \$20K was raised at Fr. Tony’s visit in late 2021 and Juliet K. mentioned that perhaps we should refocus on relationship with All Saints and/or Woman’s Care Center for Lenten projects for both a physical and spiritual experience. Bridie M. indicated School should also be involved, perhaps another fish fry or other event. Also, she asked about the listing of Mass times for both St. Monica’s and St. Eugene’s in the Bulletin to further promote Mass attendance. Per Fr. Jordan’s suggestion Lou B. will follow up with Meaghan Turner regarding a prayer event for Kyrgyzstan and Lou B. indicated he would communicate with Human Concerns about possible Lenten projections which will helpfully maximized parishioner involvement and not just monetary giving.

Chris M. discussed the future using of Flock Notes for coordination of various groups in the Parish, including Parish Council. Texting would be limited to big or unexpected events.

John S. asked if the Council might send sympathy notes to Eric H. and Emily B. for their recent loss of their parents; Bridie M. graciously offered to send flowers and note and let members know about reimbursement.

VII. Closing Prayer – Chris Ott

Estimated time: 75 minutes