

**Saint Anthony Parish**  
**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**May 9, 2022**

**Present:** Father Jorge, Ed Neuhauser (Chair), Monica Carey, Linda Benson, Margaret LaFrance (Secretary), Mary Ann Kozak (Guest)

**Not Present:** Nancy Brown (Trustee), Cathy Bishop, Eileen Rankin (Vice Chair), Andrea Perkins

**Opening Prayer and Approval of Minutes:** Monica Carey made the motion to approve the minutes for the February 21, 2022. Ed Neuhauser seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Pastor's Report:**

**New Committees:**

**Building and Grounds Committee:** Gary Cornelius and Aaron Botsford are currently on the committee. Aaron will check with his brother Nathan to see if he will serve on the committee. We need at least one more person on the committee. The committee meets 4 times a year and handles painting, repairs, inspections, security issues, some physical work and anything related to building and grounds.

**Cemetery Committee:** Father Jorge, Annette White, Gary Cornelius, Kathy Howard, and Darrell Brown are serving on the committee. Elizabeth Mowatt is no longer working for the parish. Dan Pohorence, Chairman of Regional Parish Cemeteries, attended the committee's meeting. Excavator prices have increased. Father Jorge will contact funeral directors to update rates for funerals. The cemetery is closed during the winter months. There is room in St. Patrick's Cemetery in McLean for cremains to be buried.

Trustees will need to sign a document for the diocese paperwork regarding the new committees.

There was discussion about Pastoral Care. We do not currently have a committee. Father Jorge visits at the Groton Nursing Home. He visits someone at the old schoolhouse apartment building. There is another parishioner there now that may also want to have him visit. He visits the home of 1 of the parishioners. He is willing to visit those that may want him to come if he is notified. Mary Ann has been visiting a woman confined to a nursing home.

**Audit:** Work is being done to prepare for the audit in June. Trustees need to sign some paperwork. Council members were reminded to complete the mandated Case Training for volunteers.

**CMA Goal for 2022-2023:** Our goal for 2021 was \$8,495. St. Anthony Church met the goal. The CMA for 2021 ends on May 31, 2021. The goal for 2022 is \$15,000. There is a form to apply for a reduction of our goal amount. Father is working with the Finance Committee to do the application. Our attendance at Mass is 76% of what the attendance was in 2019. This is affecting our contributions to the parish. We need more than this one reason in the application and Father asked if we have suggestions to let him know as soon as possible. He needs all the information by May 27. One of the council members made the point that many in our parish are retired and on a fixed income so this can also be used for a valid reason to reduce the goal for our parish. Inflation of prices also makes it very difficult for any families to increase their donations. It is important that we apply for the reduction, as the parish is responsible for the goal amounts, even if the donations do not cover the goal amount.

**Synod:** One of the in-person meetings had good attendance. No one came to the other in person meeting and no one attended the Zoom meeting. Some parishioners responded with emails to the parish and some sent information directly to the diocese. The diocese is currently collating all information so it can be sent to the United States Conference of Bishops.

**Liturgy:** The Easter Vigil had attendance of 70 and Easter morning Mass had 67. The Anointing Service was well attended on Holy Thursday. Mass at St. Anthony Church for The Ascension will be held at 6:00 PM on May 26.

**Member Reports:**

**Religious Education:** 2 students from our parish received First Communion on May 7. 1 candidate received Confirmation at the Easter Vigil Service. There are currently 18 students enrolled in Religious Education Classes. Mary Ann is going to conduct a survey of parents to get feedback about the program. Father Jorge expressed concern that some students attend religious education but don't attend Mass. Religious Education is conducted 1-2 times a month for 2 hours after the 4:30 Mass and a dinner. There is a group session using Growing in Faith Together and then students go to classes with their teachers.

**Building and Grounds:** The speaker for streaming Masses will be moved as the noise of children in the children's room is being heard while Mass is streamed. The parish is asking for volunteers to do mowing. It would benefit the parish if we can get volunteers rather than pay to have the mowing done. Gary Cornelius will not be able to mow anymore. He is cutting back on his time for personal reasons. Gary Cornelius sent a report saying things are getting started for spring and summer. The tractor for the cemetery has been replaced with a good used tractor. The other 2 tractors we made into one good back-up tractor at a cost of \$3000 instead of \$6000. Kathy Howard has offered to work in a garden.

**Social Ministry:** a comment was made that the money raised in the recent raffle for furniture was disappointing and we may have gotten more money if the furniture was put on Marketplace. Another comment was made that the raffle was successful. Kathy Howard and Monica Carey are taking care of the blue food cabinet. Geri Randolph coordinates donations for the Samaritan Center and gatherings for funerals.

**Parish Goals:** Father Jorge is looking for the mission and vision statements for our parish. They need to be found and updated. We need specific goals for our parish.

**Pastoral Council Replacements:** We need to replace 3 members on the Pastoral Council. We discussed names of individuals that may be interested in serving on the Council. Father Jorge will contact them to see if they would be willing to serve.

**Other:** We need to get donations for the cemetery. Income now is only from purchase of plots and funerals. We need to find a time to ask for the donation to avoid any dates when other extra donations are made and donations will be asked for that weekend. We will have a visiting missionary priest from Ghana the weekend of July 23-24.

Weekly contributions to the parish will be posted in the bulletin, as was done in the past. It was suggested that we have expenses posted also. Father Jorge said that is done every 6 months.

We need volunteers for ministries and will consider possibly having a sign-up event on a weekend, maybe in the fall.

**Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis:** We discussed the Introduction and Chapter 1. We will discuss Chapters 2 and 3 at our next meeting.

**Closing Prayer**

**Our next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM.** A link on ZOOM can be sent to anyone that is unable to attend meetings in-person.