

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2022
St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

Attendance:

Pastoral Council Members Present:

Fr. Zacharie L Tati - Priest & Church Administrator
Deacon Pat Snyder - Parish Deacon, Liturgical Commission Chair
Bob Fisher - Chair of Pastoral Council
Rafael Vazquez - Vice Chair of Pastoral Council
Winston Arokiasamy - Adult Faith Formation Chair
Stephen Bukowy - Finance Council
Melissa Edwards - Youth Faith Formation Commission Chair, SET Coordinator
William Kakuru Bitarabeho - Finance Commission Chair
Laura Walters - Social Commission Chair
Jorcahel Monroy - Young Adult Representative
Greg Malinsky - Building and Maintenance Commission Chair

Absent Pastoral Council Members:

Lidia Capote - Pastoral Council Member
Ana Diaz - Secretary of Pastoral Council
Robert Schneider - Eucharistic Minister Leader

1. Call to Order @ 6:30 by Robert Fisher
2. Opening Prayer by Winston Arokiasamy
 - a. Read scripture from Jeremiah chapter 1, personal prayer, and then St. Francis de Sales Prayer
3. Robert Fisher acknowledged that
 - a. Lydia & Ana are absent.
 - b. October Minutes were emailed and asked for review, discussion & approval
 - i. No discussion, **October 19, 2022 minutes approved**
4. Finance Council report by Stephen Bukowy
 - a. Finance Report
 - i. moving from PNC to First Bank by the end of the year, so get checks cashed asap
 - ii. Reminder to all commission chairs to start working on the budgets for 2023-24
 - iii. Fr. Z asked if we started depositing in First Bank yet, yes - \$21,000 is already in there (\$10,000 as the initial deposit, and last week's collection)
 - iv. All money (from both banks is below)
 1. Checking: \$50,994
 2. Mortgage \$188,664
 3. Savings \$132,999
5. Commission Reports
 - a. Winston verbally shared:
 - i. Adult group meeting on Sunday morning is not working - no one is coming (will continue for 2-3 more weeks and then see what happens)
 - ii. VVAW went well
 - iii. Adult talks will end Dec 7
 - iv. Dec 14 group will meet to discuss & decide on topics for next year
 - b. Jorachel verbally shared:
 - i. no major report, other than the desire to plan & host a retreat for next year. He shared he recently returned from a retreat and it encourages him plan something for our parish.
 - ii. stated they continue to meet on the regular scheduled meetings
 - iii. Deacon Pat reminded him to get the dates to the office as soon as possible due to assist
 - c. Laura's reviewed her report found in Appendix A.
 - i. Bob thanked her for sending in her report prior to the meeting
 - ii. She was asked about picnic - Laura said good

1. Deacon Pat shared his observance that the English & Spanish speaking parishioners were still separated. Bob Fisher noted that both communities attended, and all agreed that was a good start.
 2. Fr. Z asked for a survey of some sort of evaluation b/c he was embarrassed that there was not enough food. He asked if we did not have enough time in planning or not have enough announcements? why did we not have enough food?
 3. Laura addressed concern with the "assignment" of the food groups and that the same families always are expected to bring the expensive/main dishes.
 4. Suggestions were offered: sign-up sheets, dishes "checked out" to see what is left, Parish purchasing extra food or catering, etc.
- iii. Fr. Zacharie said, each commission has the ability and is strongly encouraged to meet and review/evaluate after a function and address ideas/topics to improve & then form a report to present, it is not now (the Pastoral Council Meeting) to brainstorm ideas. He asked her to meet with her commission members to finish evaluating & brainstorming to prepare for all future functions.
- iv. Read her SET report (see appendix A)
- v. Shared St. Francis de Sales Celebration concerns for location to reserve. Discussion occurred. If we get the High School, do we have access to the cafeteria? If we go back to the Bill Sapp center, communication needs to be better with how to get in, tables, sound system, etc. **Decision was made to reserve the Bill Sapp Center.** Jan 24th is a Tuesday, so we will celebrate it the Sunday before, Jan 22, 2023, if the Bill Sapp is available. If not, we will ask for Jan 29, 2023. Stephen asked if we wanted to invite Bishop Zarama. Discussion occurred and resulted in Fr. Zacharie acknowledging it is a good idea and he would ask.
- d. Deacon Pat's verbally shared:
- i. They had the music/liturgy meeting - wasn't exactly like he wanted but 80% complete
 - ii. All Holy Days of Obligations (not falling on the weekend) Mass times will be:
 1. noon (English)
 2. 5:30 pm (English)
 3. 7:30 pm (Spanish)
 - iii. Christmas 2022 Mass Schedule
 1. Saturday, 12/24/22, 4:00 pm (Children's Play/Carols)
 2. Saturday, 12/24/22, 5:00 pm (English Mass)
 3. Saturday, 12/24/22, 7:00 pm (Spanish Mass)
 4. Sunday, 12/25/22, 9:30 am (English)
 5. Sunday, 12/25/22, 11:30 am (Spanish)
 - iv. Regular Weekend Mass Schedules
 1. Saturday Vigil's 5:00 pm (English)
 2. Sunday 7:30 (Spanish)
 3. Sunday 9:30 (English)
 4. Sunday 11:30 (English)
 - v. Communications report - Amanda Allen has stepped down and Veronica Rich has accepted to maintain it.
 - vi. RCIA - 3 English (Deacon Pat meets with all of them on Wednesday), unsure on how many are in the Spanish. Emphasized that a Rite needs to be redone to ensure all our RCIA's are started together and promote "One Church" at St. Francis de Sales.
 - vii. Updated Altar Server Study Guide with pictures from our SFDS parish has been created and emailed to Joe Walters. He will also ask Veronica to put it on the Website and will be shared in the future altar server trainings.
 - viii. Calendar update meeting was a success reviewing the next 3 months. The next meeting (Jan 10th @ 6:30 pm) participants should come with the next 90 days, to include their summer schedules.
 - ix. Roof report - main church building will be getting a new roof, as well as the Social Hall, but not the rectory. Windows will not be replaced at this time b/c of insurance issues...but the windows

will be replaced in the future and will be tested as soon as they are completed (not waiting until a storm to test). Discussion occurred about who chose the past contractors, and it was revealed that our SFDS people did select someone from Fayetteville.

1. Fr. Zacharie asked what the recommendation is to fix the windows in the Social Hall now. Deacon Pat recommended to wait until after the roof is repaired. Greg added depending on the time needed on the roof, we shouldn't wait and need to proceed in fixing the windows. Deacon Pat said, ok - we'll give him 1-2 weeks. Greg said as long as we don't wait months and Deacon Pat assured him it wouldn't be that long.
- x. Bob Fisher asked about room divider repair, Greg said he forgot.
- e. William provided copies of his report found in Appendix B below
 - i. Reviewed the numbers and commended SFDS for achieving the BAA goal again.
 - ii. shared & emphasized a revision from the Priests Council about how refunds will be determined and given for those parishes that exceed their BAA goal in the future.
 1. Moving forward, if a parish exceeds their goal, only 40% of those funds would return to the parish. *Previously any parish that exceeded their goal, all the funds exceeding their goal were returned to the parish.*
 2. Discussion occurred and William stated a decision needs to be made about next year. There are two options (1) Announcing a Goal or (2) Making an Honest Attempt for certain amount of time (get no rebate) - decision will need to be made in January once we get the goal from the diocese.
 - iii. Fr. Zacharie said it is important for his committee to meet and decide outside of this Pastoral Council meeting.
- f. Greg asked to share a text from the decorating committee - Fr. Zacharie directed Greg to talk with Deacon Pat as the Liturgical Commission chair later
- g. Melissa's reviewed her report found in Appendix C:
 - i. Discussion occurred about how to include more volunteers and English people. Deacon Pat shared his experience about priests he knows and Fr. Zacharie shared the African early exposure to children. Winston shared how several catholic schools are reimplementing Catholic classes into the curriculum.
6. Closing Prayer by Fr. Zacharie
7. Bob Fisher thanked all those that submitted written reports prior to tonight's meeting. He shared that providing reports and reading them prior, would result in more effective and shorter meetings. He acknowledged we are finishing 15 minutes late because of verbal reports and asked that reports be submitted prior to the meeting in the future by all commission chairs to save time.
 - a. There will be no December Pastoral Meeting, but Fr. Zacharie said commission chairs should meet with their committees to continue to evaluate, plan, and perform better in the future.

Next meeting is January 18, 2022 @ 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Appendix A: (Social Commission Report)

Parish Council Meeting for November 16, 2022

Hospitality:

The only thing that I need to discuss in the meeting is the location of the St. Francis de

Sales feast day celebration. April said to let her know as soon as possible if we wanted to have

it at the high school, that way we could go ahead and book it. She said that we could have mass

in the gym or auditorium, and we could have the reception in the cafeteria.

Thank you, Laura Walters

Safe Environment Report

Prepared for November 16, 2022, Pastoral Council by Melissa Edwards

1. Spanish Safe Environment Training was October 22nd from 9:00 - 12:00 in the Social Hall by Deacon Ramon Ferrer, Safe Environment Coordinator from Diocese of Raleigh.
 - a. 29 attended
 - i. 12 for the initial training
 - ii. 17 for the renewal training
2. Still working to update the eApps Database
 - a. Only 2 Non-Compliant (was 11 last month - getting better!)
 - b. Emails will continue & appreciation is given to the office, Fr. Zacharie and all that help emphasize the importance or remaining compliant with the Diocese of Raleigh.
 - i. 7 still incomplete (will continue to email & encourage completion)
 - ii. 58 Total applicants (was 62 last month, cleaned up to be more current)
3. Melissa would like to give this ministry to another volunteer within the next year. Ideas?

Appendix B: (Finance Commission Report)

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC PARISH, LUMBERTON NC
FINANCE COMMISSION.
PARISH COUNCIL REPORT –NOVEMBER2022

Bishop Annual Appeal Fund 2022:

The committee has received a total of **248\$** since the last parish council meeting. Parishioners continue to fulfill their pledges.

St. Francis De Sales Church, Lumberton NC					November 16, 2022
Bishop's Annual Appeal Fund 2022				Parish Goal	25,137
Summary	Committed	Collected	Rebate - Projected	Rebate-Current	
TOTAL Previous Report :	33,115	32,310	7,978	7,173	
TOTAL Current Report :	33,190	32,558	8,053	7,421	
CURRENT: %age of Parish Goal:	132.04%	129.52%	32.04%	29.52%	

The current projected rebate check is **7,421\$**.

BAA 2023 Changes:

Parish Goals and Rebates Revisions:

- The Priest Council approved a two-factor approach to determine parish BAA goals for 2023. One data point is the offertory formula. The second data point is a parish's past 4-year average of BAA collections; these two data points were combined into a weighted factor of the overall BAA gross goal to determine each parish's individual goal for 2023.
- The Council decided that 40% of the funds over goal would return to the parish.

Appendix C: (Youth Faith Formation Report)

Youth Faith Formation Report For November Pastoral Council (11/16/2022)

National Vocation Awareness Week was 11/6-11/12

- Monday (Sr. Audrey Francis Moran & Sr. Michaela Serpa were guests online)
 - 73 families joined in the Social Hall
 - 17 families joined online w/Zoom
- Tuesday (Fr. Tim was the guest online)
 - 40 families joined in the Social Hall
 - 20 families joined online w/Zoom
- Wednesday (Adult FF planned & presented, Joe Walters shared testimony about wanting to become a deacon & Winston shared a little about saints)
 - 20 families joined in the Social Hall
 - 9 families joined online w/Zoom
- Google form was sent for an evaluation with 3 open ended questions, **a few responses are highlighted here:** *(14 responses were submitted)*
 - **What did you like best?**
 - Being able to join in person
 - Guests were great. Especially the sisters & Fr. Tim,
 - hearing their stories & experiences (real life), and
 - recommendations on how to encourage religious vocations (attend adoration, prayer, “good friends”, etc.)
 - **How could we improve?**
 - Encourage more English parishioners to attend
 - Create a ministry for vocations in our parish
 - Include Spanish translation
 - **Anything you like to share?**
 - Hearing from Fr. Tim, wonder if Fr. Zacharie should move his Confession time (he needs to take care of himself in order to serve SFDS)
 - TV is too small, consider ceiling mounted projector (curtains & blinds) in the future of the social hall
 - Urgency in reviving the SFDS youth group - composed of youth in confirmation classes and those recently confirmed
- Reflection:
 - Great vision to increase children to attend in person. Sadly many of the English- speaking community did not participate. (Perhaps the “encourage all children to attend” discouraged some of our English-speaking adults from attending)
 - Will continue to look & ask for volunteer(s) to accept the Youth Group and start a Vocation Ministry focused group.

Upcoming Dates/Events

- **November 27, First Sunday of Advent: Children’s Liturgy** will resume at the 9:30 Mass. Training will be announced and arranged soon.
- Confirmation Mass with the bishop at SFDS is: **Saturday, March 4th, 2023 @ 10:30 am.** *(we have 29 confirmation candidates for 2023, 8-English & 21- Spanish)*