

**St. John Chrysostom Parish**  
**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**November 14, 2017 – 7:00 PM – Stevenson Center**

Present: Father Ed, Lynne Schofield, Kevin Haggerty, Chuck Zech, Mary Chollet, Debra Traini, Marianne Duffy, Neil Sheehan, Gerry Arango, Deanna Benner, Pat Lockwood, Jared Shutt, Brian Larson, and Maureen Wortz

1. Opening Prayer – Lynne led the group with a prayer
  
2. Pastor's Report
  - Referencing from a table the Parish Pastoral Council had been provided, Father began a discussion about the October Mass count. Weekend attendance at SJC is holding steady at approximately 1057 individuals (1063 in 2016). Father discussed the procedure for counting and how the number of attendees related over time and in relation to the total number of people registered at SJC. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council offered further evidence of success and suggestions for the future. Discussion focused on serving the youth. Father Ed concluded saying our parish needs to continue to be open and welcoming.
  - Father next provided an update on the Parish Life Center. He noted that after the feasibility study, some people had expressed concern about the research reliability (small sample size of the group interviewed, inexperience of the research organization). Father acknowledged these concerns. He has since spoken with experts familiar with capital campaigns. Father is going to meet with another group about the campaign November 20. Potentially a second study could be done. Meanwhile, adaptations to the plans were made to reduce the cost on construction (to the \$2.5 million).
    - ✓Debbie next shared how she and a small team had visited the convent site to identify potential cost savings. She suggested options such as scaled back finishes, fewer structural alteration, and leaving a few areas in the basement less completed.
    - ✓Father's goal is to avoid extend debt for the parish.
    - ✓Father further explained the plan to start a foundation separate from the parish entity to separate the assets from those of the Church. A law firm is prepared to help with the establishment of a foundation to execute this plan.
    - ✓He envisions that the Parish Life Center will provide the vitality for the Parish for the extended future. He noted the importance of laity to the Church and how we need a new facility to provide for the various ministries and activities to carry out the mandate of the Gospel.
  
3. Parish Life
  - Mary provided Block Census and other updates. She has received nearly 700 of the 2000 Census mailings back. Reminder mailings are going out currently. Census contributions are stronger this year by about 30% over last year. Parish registrations are going well also with 17 new households added in October.
  - Mary discussed the new assistive listening system to be implemented at SJC. The system is badly needed update to the Parish's outdated system and will better serve our church community. It utilizes digital technology and wifi. The system details will soon be communicated in the church bulletin.

- Mary next noted the success of the signed Mass and its effect. She and other members of the Parish Pastoral Council attested to the impact the Mass had on them and members of SJC. It is another example of the special spirit of our Parish. Mary concluded by noting that there are new sacramental guidelines for people with hearing disabilities.
4. New Business
- Chuck solicited input regarding new business.
    - ✓ A suggestion was made that we should plan to discuss the book Everyone Leads. There was general consensus that the book needed to be introduced into the meetings.
    - ✓ We were informed that there is a revised Christmas Mass schedule. Because the fourth week of Advent falls on Christmas Eve, Sunday [December 24<sup>th</sup>] masses at 8:00 and 11:30 would be eliminated.
5. Closing Prayer – Deanna led the group in a closing prayer.
6. There is no December meeting. The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Brian Larson