

**Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2016**

Present: Msgr. Pat Garrity, Larry Lehmann, Trish Varga, Andrew Cieslik, Ken Hodak, Michelle Johnson, Jeff Knox, Walt Hanson, Ellie Sanchez-Valencia

Absent: David Campbell, Larry Moran

- I. Opening Prayer – Msgr. Garrity
- II. Minutes of previous meeting (June 15, 2015) unanimously approved.
- III. Overview of Latest Financial Statements -- (several handouts-balance sheet and debt analysis). Msgr. Garrity quickly reviewed the financial statements for parish, school, and charities (St. Vincent de Paul). Reviewed the change (reduction) in the parish debt. Debit is lower than what it was on June 2015 at the time of last meeting. Update on mass attendance and registered parishioners. Parish has grown about 30% over the past 6 years.
- IV. Update on Diocesan Capital Campaign and its impact on SJN – Msgr. Garrity and Ellie Sanchez-Valencia gave update on Home Campaign. As of 12/31/2015, about \$631K has been received of the nearly \$1.9 million pledged. The amount given is on schedule with pledged giving; about \$106K has been transferred to trust for the Parish Life Center, and \$213K transferred to debit reduction.
- V. Columbarium Report – Sidewalks and foundations for columbariums have been poured. Enough niches sold so that two columbariums have been ordered. Both should arrive the week of March 7th.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Communications (Walt Hanson) – handout provided. Kudos given to web designer for parish web page, Mary Hearnberger for the parish bulletin, and Judy Chavez for the ambo announcements; all working quite smoothly. Mary Hearnberger is doing all artwork and layout for the bulletin. Noted that bulletin announcements which take up a full page or ½ page must be to Mary several weeks in advance. Ambo announcements should be short (1 or 2 sentences). Ministries Fair was a big success with 30 ministries participating and getting the word out to parishioners of all available. Parish directory is wrapping up. Waiting for updated contact information from parishioners to complete directory. Need photos for parish staff and ministries. Discussed whether SJN wanted to pursue “My Parish” app for smartphones, includes church bulletin, mass times, readings, prayers, event calendar.
 - b. Administration (Larry Lehmann) – No formal report. Memorial Plaque: have found the name plates; order is moving along and will be installed when done.
 - c. Spiritual Life (Ken Hodak) – No formal report. Ken replaces Tom Perry on parish council for Spiritual Life. Various activities planned for the Year of Mercy; all to be announced in the Bulletin as they come up. Kickoff event was held Saturday, February 6th. Banners for Year of Mercy were purchased and will be displayed in church (banners will be rotated and displayed

with a banner continuously displayed by statue of Jesus in the church narthex). April 3rd is Divine Mercy Sunday. During April, after noon mass on Wednesdays will recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

- d. Family & Parish Life (Trish Varga) – No formal report. Past events have gone well and were well attended. Summer Ice Cream Social growing in popularity. Msgr. Garrity would like to start an event for adults during the winter (e.g., Valentine’s dance and dinner, or Mardi Gras party). Msgr. Garrity’s 40th anniversary of ordination will be May 13th. Chris Floerish ordination as Deacon is May 14th.
- e. Youth & Young Adult (Andrew Cieslik) – no formal report. Suggested watching “Victor Marks Story” which can be viewed online on YouTube. Things are going well with youth programs. Success at the Ministries Fair for youth groups, scouts, etc. Changes in the religious education program for high school students to include youth ministry component. Having great success and large attendance! This more dynamic approach is successful.
- f. Education/Faith Formation (Larry Moran absent) – Msgr. Garrity: Bishop Stika has decided that sacrament of confirmation will be move to the 6th grade but change will not take effect until 2019. To move to this earlier age, plan is to confirm multiple grades over the next two years. In spring of 2017, will confirm grades 8, 9, 10, and 11. In spring of 2018, will confirm grades 6, 7, and 8. Changes in religious education combined with youth ministry for high school students has put SJN ahead of other parishes in planning for change in confirmation.
- g. Social Action (David Campbell absent) – no report.
- h. Msgr. Garrity discussed the use of the church and other facilities for various activities. Noted some past failures to get approval from the parish office, including approval of speakers and approval for gifts or items to give away to parishioners. Noted that approval must be gotten first to ensure that activity, speaker, or gift conforms to Catholic Church teachings and doctrine. Msgr. Garrity also discussed the need for a formal bereavement group that is available to attend funeral, lead rosary at funeral home, and generally represent the parish at funerals. Noted that currently we have a bereavement group that hosts luncheon and provides food following funerals.

VII. Old Business - none

VIII. New Business -- none

IX. Closing Prayer – Msgr. Garrity led prayer and gave a blessing.

Respectfully submitted: Michelle Johnson