

Church of the Resurrection  
Ellicott City, Maryland

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
July 31, 2023

Attendance:

Pastoral Council (voting members)

<u>Member</u>	<u>Status</u>
Martin Fienkeng	P
Laura Glaudemans	P
Greg Jolissaint (RS)	P
Bill Judy	P
Gina Maclean (P)	P
Lorraine Miano-Fike (VP)	P
Martin Mullan	Ex
Mary Peroutka	Ex
Paul Reif	P
Carolyn Sherman	P
Paul Venginickal	P
Julie Winpisinger (CS)	Ex

Others in attendance

<u>Clergy</u>	
Msgr. John Dietzenbach	Pastor - Present
Father Paul Kongnyuy	Assoc Pastor -- Present
<u>Committees</u>	
Lorraine Miano-Fike	Events Under the Tent
Cathy Hanks	Liturgy
<u>Invited Guests</u>	
Chris Hannon	Vision 2020 Finance

1. Call to Order: Pastoral Council President, Gina Maclean, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Opening Prayer: Father Paul said an opening prayer.
3. Roll Call/Quorum: Greg Jolissaint, the Recording Secretary, determined a quorum was present.

4. Minutes: The meeting minutes of the previous meeting on June 26, 2023, were approved between meetings via e-mail. This new process allowed the minutes to be posted to the Pastoral Council website sooner, thereby making them available to all parishioners sooner.

5. Pastor's report:

a. **Vision 2020 Construction** – Stephen's 6 ½ minute "Special Edition" YouTube video is excellent and provides a nice update regarding construction progress (and it also provides some brief commentary about the need for more donations). In the video, Father John provides some good commentary regarding certain aspects of the construction. The video is available via the Church website. A link to this video can be found here:

[Special Edition! Three Things/Vision2020 mashup, July 26, 2023 - YouTube](#)

b. **Vision 2020 Finances** – Father John discussed Beth Bennett's Vision 2020 report – there have been \$345K in "recent" pledges + \$500K in Cash. Another \$500K in pledges are still due to come in. Father John articulated why he believes September is the right time to send out letters; he will use August to prepare these letters. He wants to send letters out after Labor Day. Cindy Desrochers has access to Ministry platform and can extract Vision 2020 donation information by various groups; the groups Father John and the PC recommended pulling include:

- those donating to Vision 2020
- those donating to the Offertory but not Vision 2020
- registered parishioners who are not donating to the Offertory or Vision 2020
- current and recent past Religious Education/Faith Formation parents
- new parishioners since 2016

Father John plans to formally thank those who have made significant contributions over the years. The PC articulated a belief that every parishioner should receive a letter (even if it is a general letter asking for donations).

Father John also noted there are ~1000 families who are actively giving to the parish; of these 1000 families, he thinks ~30 parishioners could be visited to discuss increasing their donations toward Vision 2020.

Bill Judy asked "how many parishioners have we lost?" (since the beginning of the pandemic). Father John noted that it "seems like a lot." He also noted that some of

them are watching church on TV. He does not know how many of those no longer attending are still donating to the Offertory or Vision 2020.

Cathy Hanks noted that attendance is up this year compared to last year (and similar to the attendance numbers we experienced while we were still in the church).

Gina MacLean asked, “should we reach out to the RSPS parents?” Father John responded that RSPS should be paying their half of the Fire Safety expenses for the School. Although the Grant was disapproved, the parish is planning to resubmit for the Grant. These factors contribute to why Father John is hesitant to reach out to RSPS parents.

Father John and the Construction Manager are ready to start giving tours of the construction site (which might stimulate donations). A suggestion was made to offer a sign-up for the tour, and to establish some sort of creative fundraising at the end of the tour (perhaps a reception with finger foods). The PC collectively affirmed this suggestion. To stimulate interest in the tours, a suggestion was made for Father John to include a comment in the upcoming letters that encourages people to take tours of the construction site. Father John will speak with the Construction Manager about when the tours can start.

Father John acknowledged receipt of 3 draft letters provided by the PC – these letters were drafted collaboratively and are designed to first thank those who have already donated and to stimulate interest in increasing donations/pledges toward paying for the renovation project and its unplanned budget increases.

Father John did announce that May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm is the tentatively scheduled Dedication Mass and Post-dedication reception.

c. **Discussion of Additional Fundraising Ideas.** The “brainstormed” list of ideas found in the June minutes were briefly reviewed during the PC meeting (ideas discussed included: letter writing; dedication of church items; tours of the construction site; dated collection envelopes; and silent auctions)

d. **Marketing of the Financial Need for Additional Donations.** The PC discussed the need to frequently communicate the financial goals for lowering the loan amount for this project. Suggestions discussed included:

- inclusion in homilies; ResConnections emails; Sunday Bulletin
- emails to active parish groups (e.g. Men’s Club; Catholic Daughters of America; Knights of Columbus; etc.)
- messaging on electronic monitors

- outreach to RSPS and Religious Education/Faith Formation Parents (especially those who are not registered parishioners)
- visual displays to promote the current campaign (posters; LED monitors; etc.)
- Father John articulated not wanting to use the term “Finish Line” for this Campaign due to the 15-year mortgage that will kick in once construction is completed; he does acknowledge the *current/new fundraising Campaign does require a name*

**NOTE: Father John agreed to “over-communicate” with respect to the financial need and the new fundraising campaign goal designed to lower the overall loan amount.**

- if desired, the Pastoral Council will be allowed to record a video that communicates the urgency of the financial situation
- the PC expressed agreement that the communication campaign should continue until the goal is reached (but there was also recognition of the need for a balance between over-communicating and communicating too frequently)
- Father John also discussed his intent to openly discuss fundraising through the dedication of specific items that will be used in the renovated church (e.g. the baptismal font; pews; stained glass windows). That discussion and effort will probably begin sometime in September.

**e. Vision 2020 Financial Discussion by Chris Hannon:** Chris led a discussion of the current financial status. \$20.1M is the new projected cost for the construction; \$800K in change orders have occurred since the beginning of the year, and all of them were required by the County or to meet County Code. So far the church has paid \$10M to the contractor; the Vision 2020 fund still has \$5M cash on hand that is ready to used to pay construction invoices. Chris expects the “final” construction cost to be \$21M.

- By the time construction is complete, Chris is projecting a requirement for a \$6M loan amount unless we create a successful “new” fundraising campaign; he recommended the new campaign have a goal of pushing down the loan amount by at least \$2M and, if possible, by \$3M (so that the loan mortgage amount would be between \$3M-\$4M).
- PC members then verbalized suggestions such as “making it easy for people to donate” (QR codes; links in ResConnection emails; links in emails to parish groups).

- PC members again articulated the need to over-communicate and also recommended creating “fundraising status” visuals that are available for every Mass.
- at the end of this discussion, the PC concluded the **new interim fundraising goal should be \$3M raised/pledged over the next 12 months**

6. President’s Report:

- a. Friday August 25<sup>th</sup> will be the next “Fun Event in the Tent.” The Resurrection Knights of Columbus Council has the lead with the PC in support. It will be a family-oriented event that will probably involve ice cream and a movie. The Knights will ask for PC help, as required.
- b. The Pastorate Picnic is scheduled to occur Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1-5pm, at Mary’s Land Farm. A decision was made to not show the Ravens game on TV; there will be wagon rides around the farm. The Resurrection Knights and Catholic Daughters will be providing baked beans, lemonade, and iced tea. The St. Paul Knights (St. Agnes Council) will be grilling. There will be a Raffle Basket and a 50:50 drawing. A generous donor funded the full cost for the raffle basket. There will be various games for children in attendance. Mick Wist is donating a slushie machine, a popcorn machine, tables, and chairs for use at the picnic. The goal of the planning committee is to have a “cost neutral” event. The Mary’s Farm Market will be open for shopping (and this fact should be included in the messaging for the picnic).
- c. A Professional Fundraiser has said he/she is willing to help us – Gina will be speaking with Father John about this potential opportunity.

7. Committee Reports: None

8. CAM Feedback:

- a. We will not be adding the St. Michael Prayer to the end of weekend masses; it is a beautiful devotion, but it is not a part of the Mass. The Mass is a perfect celebration that does not require any additional devotions.
- b. Comments were made regarding a need to capitalize on seating space in the Tent, especially for the 0930 Mass. Options discussed included Ushers asking people to “scooch” over to fill empty seats and clergy asking people at the beginning of the Mass to raise their hands if they have empty seats near them (when people are noticeably standing around the perimeter of the tent). Fr. John responded that he does not want the Ushers asking people to move toward the center of the rows when there are empty seats -- he cited several reasons for people needing to sit along the aisle so they can exit easily (e.g. EMHCs who are

going to serve communion; those who need quick access to the restrooms; and those who are uncomfortable being "boxed in"). Father John also mentioned that he does not want the Mass being disrupted by people moving around once the Mass begins (which would be the case if clergy asked people to raise their hands if they have empty seats beside them). The Liturgy Committee will be assessing options for solving this issue; Cathy Hanks will be providing a formal response, with the Liturgy Committee recommendations, to the PC once their assessment is complete.

9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Gina MacLean led the closing prayer with an Our Father and adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Jolissaint.

Minutes approved by unanimous electronic vote August 18, 2023

**Next regular meeting Monday September 11, 2023**