**St. Gregory the Great Pastoral Council (PC)**

**October 28, 2024**

Present: Fr. Steve, Fr. Aaron, Debbie Birck, John Elliott, Dan Frey, Jim Moyer, Gloria Parker-Martin, Pam Payne, Chris Richard, Megan Roach, Jeff Zalar

Guests: Michael Johnson, Director of Worship; Matt Spencer, Associate Director of Worship

Dan opened our meeting with prayer.

September meeting minutes were approved.

Each of our guests explained his role within the SGG Worship Ministry. They both expressed their goal of having quality liturgies as this will retain parishioners and attract new ones. They ask that people appreciate the quality of music and mentioned style vs. quality. It was stated that a new approach to stewardship is hospitality, prayerful environment, and good preaching/formation vs. former approach of time, talent, and treasure.

* PC asked questions to which the replies were:
  + We would like to fill the pews and bring in parents of GA and IHM day school students and GA/IHM/SJF religious education students currently not attending Mass.
  + To be more effective in planning overall liturgies, the computer program Ministry Scheduler Pro would be a good addition.
  + With very few music ministers available to fill the part-time position of Associate Director of Music at SJF, a coop student from a local university could be considered. If the coop student is hired, an opportunity exists whereby the student could learn from the SJF seasoned choir and obtain college credits. The part-time position is currently posted on the archdiocesan website.
  + When the Family Worship Council is formed, Michael and Matt would like to see equal representation from each church.

Liaison Reports:

* GA’s Parish Council is onboard with Confirmation being in the spring, especially since there is a tie in with Easter and Pentecost. They will roll out their 2025-2026 tuition for next year in November. Recent fundraiser events, the Halo Hustle and the Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer event, were very successful.
* IHM’s Parish Council hosted their annual all-commission meeting during which goals for each commission were shared. In reaching these goals, the commissions were mindful of the Family goals of Eucharist, Evangelization, Church. Parish Council will now assess the goals to ensure this and suggest collaboration among commissions where possible.
* SJF’s Parish Council has submitted their guidelines to the Boy Scout asking to perform Eagle Scout work on campus. The PC has chosen to move to a liaison structure for their council. Their current bylaws require nine members.
* Six of the Deacons met to explore more ways to cross-minister on various councils. They will be encouraged to join the new councils being formed within the family. Debbie will investigate access by our priests to the Google Calendar used by the Deacons.
* Communications submitted the Family pathway report to Maggie to review and submit to the archdiocese. Jeff will ask Jenifer (SJF) the cost and payer of the Slido software program used during town hall meetings and ask the PC for a decision to renew the license or not. Jeff will begin to plan for our two town halls to be held in 2025. The first one will focus on the creation of Councils within the Family using the Cornerstone document. The Leadership Team (LT) will participate in these town halls.
* Worship has concerns about the lack of an Associate Director of Worship at SJF. Currently choir members and cantors are stepping up to cover the weekend Masses.
* Health/Love in Action reports this group is working on content for the SGG website such as a volunteer interest survey. The mental health wellness group is dividing into functional teams. They hosted a mental health training for people interested in the ministry.
* Evangelization is doing many good things. When the Evangelization report was sent to the archdiocese, why was the young adult group omitted?
* Jim discussed the direction the LT is moving toward within the Family. After an all-day meeting, they plan to form Family Councils that will be more specialized and better organized within the Family. This will enable us to better serve our parishioners and our communities.
  + Finance and Education will continue to remain in respective churches for now. The Leadership Team wants to invest time and effort to better align the schools within the framework of the parish structure.
  + Each church will continue to have Parish Councils for the present time.
  + In forming the Family Councils, the LT will look for ‘doers’ not ‘talkers.’
  + In the longer term, the LT will look at possible sub-committees to oversee ‘local’ matters.
  + The goal is to find a home for all ministries in all three parishes of our Family.

Pastor’s Report:

* Rome has decreed that the Immaculate Conception will be a Holy Day of Obligation in 2024, celebrated on Monday, December 9. Mass times within the Family will be the holyday schedule in our Family of parishes.
* In recent years, the Girl Scouts of America has embraced worldviews that are contrary to the Catholic understanding of the human person made male and female in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, by the end of 2025, the parishes’ partnerships with the Girl Scouts will cease. This difficult decision was reached by the archbishop after consultation with the archdiocesan Presbyteral Council and the Deans.

Dan closed our meeting with prayer.

Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on Monday, November 25, at St. John Fisher. The Business Managers from each parish will be our guests.