

St. John the Evangelist
Pastoral Parish Council Agenda
August 21, 2019
(following 6:00 mass)

(in attendance: Fr. Brian LaBurt, Lynn Barfield, Susan Kramer, Sheryl Dasinger, Beverly Kindley, Kathy Register, James Dunleavy, Laura Hanna, Mike Savoie, Cesar Reyes, Vito Pelliteri, Steve Findley, Kevin Berkel, Lee Crosby, Fr. Jason Adams, Lynnette Kenworthy, Tony Drake, Sr. Nuala Mulleady, Heidi Gonzalez (President), Mark Ellis (Vice-President), & Ryan Hogan (Secretary))

6:37 p.m. Heidi called the meeting to order and invited Fr. Brian to lead the opening prayer.

Opening Prayer

I. Committee Reports

Note: Committee Reports already submitted and read before the meeting will be open for questions if needed. Any reports not submitted in advance may be given at the meeting.

- A. Buildings & Maintenance (Tony Drake)
- B. CCW (Sheryl Dasinger)
- C. Finance (Steve Findlay)
- D. School Youth Ministry (Penny & Daniel Storey)*
- E. Hispanic Pastoral Assistance (Cesar Reyes)
- F. Long Range Planning (Mike Savoie)
- G. Meals Committee (Linda Monetti)
- H. Newman Center (Lynnette Kenworthy)*
- I. Parish Life (Tony Barfield)
- J. Pro-Life (Sheryl Dasinger) *verbal report***
- K. RCIA (Paul Worth)*
- L. Religious Education (Susan Kramer)*
- M. St. Francis Center (Sr. Nuala Mulleady)
- N. San Jose (Cesar Reyes)
- O. School (Vito Pelliteri)
- P. Stewardship (Lee Crosby) *verbal report***

*Indicates Quarterly Reports

Pro-Life: Sheryl Dasinger is the new chairperson of the pro-life committee. There will be planned activities every month. She also toured Options Now and they were greatly equipped with materials and option for pregnant women. They are focusing on more than just abortion but complete life; from birth to death. They are going to focus attention to capital punishment, euthanasia, and something else.

Stewardship: Lee shared the minutes from the August meeting. He is looking for creative ways to add more people to the committee and is open to other strategies to engage others. He also shared that the Stewardship Fair is Oct. 12 & 13. There were some discussions on different

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strategies to better improve engagement within the parish. There is also a Ministry Appreciation Evening on September 25.

Finance Committee: Steve added to his report that there was a significant need to build a new church office and perhaps sanctuary. Mark asked about the revenue from the sale of the Berkley home and where was that money going. Steve said there were ideas of using these funds to go to the new office/chapel and perhaps improvements to the bathrooms in the church. He also said the Finance Committee is discussing adding gates to the end of Justine Lane.

St. John School: Vito added to his report that the School is going to lead a VSU tailgate for the church and school on September 21. Vito also asked if the parish could help provide support of the Fall Festival instead of it being just a school related function. Kathy suggested more responsibilities should be placed on the parents of the school. Vito proposed that since this was a school and parish function both sides should come together to support it. Lynette suggested delegating responsibilities to individual ministries within the parish to run the various booths. Vito appreciated the suggestion and would take it back to those that are organizing the event.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Parish Survey Results & Future of Long Term Planning Committee – Mike Savoie

Mike shared that Shirley Serini is going to be helping him lead the long term planning committee. He added that she is a very well accomplished academic professional in the Public Relations environment and has an extensive career of using these gifts in Catholic churches. He was grateful to have her and her expertise assist him in the ministry of the long term planning committee. Kathy inquired about the number of people that completed the survey which was 147 and if Mike thought this was a proper sample of the Parish. Mike said from his research experience, he was pleased with the number of responses because in this type of survey 100% completion nor 50% will never be achieved. However, Mike offered that those that did complete the survey represented the ones that had strong opinions of the direction of the parish which was the goal Fr. Brian wanted to achieve by taking the survey of the parish. Kathy asked, in the future, we need to also consider the older people in the church who prefer paper surveys and who are not be able to travel to the church office to get a copy. Fr. Jason proposed if some parishioners felt strongly about some items but were not able to complete the survey they should contact Frs. Brian and/or Jason. There were some conversations about making the survey more accessible in the future for surveys which Mike said he would take under consideration.

B. 2701 Berkley Home – Mark Ellis

There was an update that the home is in the process of being sold. It should be sold within the next 45 days.

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Pastoral Parish Council Agenda
August 21, 2019
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IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recognition and welcome of Fr. Jason – Heidi Gonzalez

Heidi wanted to formally welcome Fr. Jason to the Parish Council. Fr. Jason shared his excitement to be back in Valdosta and looks forward to collaboratively working with everyone in the Parish.

B. Stewardship: A Disciple's Response –Fr. Brian

Fr. Brian lead the discussion by asking everyone to go around and speak to what "stewardship" means to them. Different members of the council shared what they thought it meant. Fr. Brian then passed out an article "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response" around. He asked the council to read all of it before September meeting. He also wanted this to be the guide of the council over the next year.

C. Security Update – James Dunleavy & Nerma Dave

James talked to Officer Hancock and said he would come do a safety briefing for the church/school leaders (teachers, etc.). He also talked to them about doing a threat analysis and he said the Valdosta Police department does not do this. He said he is checking with the Lowndes County Sherriff's department to see if they would be willing to do it. Mrs. Nerma said she asked Officer Hancock if he would come do a safety training. He said he would but it would be 45 minutes to an hour. Mrs. Nerma made a motion to have the officer come do safety training. Beverly seconded the motion. All voting members passed it with unianimously. There was discussion on when and whom to invite and it was recommended to work this detail out before scheduling anything.

D. Parish Directory – Ryan Hogan

Ryan reminded the council that we did a directory in 2018 and the one before that was in 2011. It was discussed in the council over the last year that our parish should do a directory every other year. This would mean the next directory will be in 2020. There was discussion on if we should use the same company. Some on the council worried about the company pressuring parishioners into buying the photos. Ryan reminded the council that this is how the company made money since they printed the directories for free and gave all parishioners who took a photo, one free photo. Ryan & Lynn lead this effort in 2018. They were very clear to the company that high pressure sales tactics were not to be used. There were more discussions on how to inform the parishioners that purchasing photos were not required. By the end, it was recommended that we proceed forward with the directory starting in March 2020.

St. John the Evangelist
Pastoral Parish Council Agenda
August 21, 2019
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E. Day of Reflection w/ Deacon Herman or Fr. Jim Costagan – Fr. Brian

Fr. Brian shared that he wanted to invite Fr. Jim Costagan to come during lent to lead a day of reflection. He asked the council if they would support this. The general consensus of the council was to support this. Kathy Register even suggested that more opportunities like this could only improve our parish and not hurt it.

F. Formed (perhaps kickoff during Stewardship??) – Heidi Gonzalez

Heidi brought up Formed as a resource for Catholic materials. Fr. Jason shared his experience at his previous Parish on how well it worked. Ryan Hogan made a motion that we purchase the software for to kick off the Stewardship fair. Beverly Kindly seconded the motion. It passed unopposed. Fr. Brian and Lynn were going to work on purchasing the software and give an update at the next council meeting.

Upcoming Calendar Dates: For parish and school

- **Family Water Day**--Sunday, September 22nd —Family Water Day
- **Hispanic Heritage Celebration**—Saturday, September 14th
- **Ministry Leader Appreciation**—Wednesday, September 25th.
- **Casino Night**—Saturday, September 28th
- **Parish Mission**-Sunday, October, 6th through Wednesday, October 9th – 6:30pm
- (Reception to follow on Wed night)
- **Stewardship Ministry Fair**—Saturday and Sunday, October 12th / 13th following Masses
- **School Road Race and Carnival**—Saturday, October 26th
- **End of Life Planning Seminar**—tentatively set for Saturday, November 2nd
- **Diocesan Jr. Youth Conference**—Saturday, November 9th
- **Options Now Walk for Life**—Saturday, November 9th
- **Black Catholic Ministry Reception** (following 5pm Mass) – Saturday, November 16th
- **Breakfast with Santa**—Saturday, December 7th
- **Guadalupe Celebration**—Thursday, December 12th
- **Patron Saint Celebration**—Wednesday, December 18th
- **Chili Supper**—Saturday, January 18th
- **Gus Lloyd Conference**—Saturday, January 25th
- TBA

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VI. Priests Comments-Fr. Brian LaBurt

Fr. Brian shared that he will be going through some medical procedures soon and will be out of commission for a brief period. He also shared that Moody Air Force Base is currently without a Priest and has asked for help from our parish. He reminded the council that Fr. Jude had often supported our parish, he felt strongly that we should support Moody Air Force Base in their time of need. Fr. Brian thanked Fr. Jason for taking on the additional responsibilities during his absence at our Parish and at Moody Air Force Base.

VII. Closing Prayer – Heidi adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m. and asked Fr. Brian to lead us in a closing prayer.