

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; in person, Brunsman Hall
Tuesday, Oct 18, 2022

Sister Libby Fernandez, present
Melba Hinojosa, present
Sister Dorothy McCormack, present
Marco Montano, present
Janine Neely, present

Marcia Rooney, present
Janet Vitt, excused
Ed Condon, secretary, excused
Emer McKenna, vice chair, present
Darrin Greer, chair, present

Also attending was J.D. Warrick of the parish staff.

Chair Darrin Greer opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m., and Fr. Rey led a prayer.

The September 13, 2022, minutes of the regular council meeting were reviewed by the council and Janine Neely noted corrections. The minutes were approved as corrected upon motion by Sister Libby Fernandez, seconded by Janine Neely. They will be posted on the parish website.

The vice chair welcomed visiting guests: Kenton Meyers, Theresa Arciniega, Jean Iacino, and Mark Tavianini to the meeting.

Pastor's Report:

- **Installation** - Fr. Rey expressed his thanks to everyone for the warm welcome he received during his installation. He was so moved by the ritual. This is a covenant in which we journey together.
- **Parish Center** - The Front Office is now open Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. As a result, the library is also available during these hours. Fr. Rey is opening-up the facility for its intended use. He has approved use of the Parish Center for Bible Study and Spiritual Direction.
- **Liturgy Committee** – Fr. Rey has formed a Liturgy Committee comprised of sacristans. The committee will meet the first week of November to prepare for November 27th, the beginning of the liturgical year. Fr. Rey has asked Ron Hill to join the committee. Fr. Rey noted that we have up to twenty altar servers now, and we will continue to strengthen the team. Fr. Rey has cleared out areas in the church that were cluttered with the goal of helping people in their prayer by bringing back the dignity of the Church. Beth White is assisting Fr. Rey in the interim with the Liturgy Committee and other programs as needed including Faith Formation. Staff are not committee members.
- **Campus Safety/Gates** – The church/school has applied for a grant to protect the school and the entire St. Francis of Assisi campus. If the grant is approved a committee/team built of community members will be formed and physical steward(s) assigned. The grant would support the installation of a camera system. A site survey was completed last week. Fr. Rey is mindful of the desire to remove the gates; however, we must protect the facilities and people until we hear if the grant funding is approved. It is a process. The No Trespassing signage on the front steps has been removed for now.
- **Faith Formation** – Children's Faith Formation classes kicked off this past Sunday with a Welcome/Informational session with the parents and children. It was a great turnout with a lot of energy. The Faith Formation classes, grades 1 thru 8, will be held in the Parish Center, and the

RCIA program is in Brunsman Hall. Emer McKenna thanked Fr. Rey for being there to speak with the parents and welcome them. Fr. Rey thanked all the volunteers for stepping up to help.

- **Parish Pastoral Guidelines** – Fr. Rey asked that we review the Diocese of Sacramento’s Parish Pastoral Guidelines, available on the diocese website: (<https://www.scd.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/pastoral-council-guidelines.pdf>). Fr. Rey recommended Sister Susan McCarthy provide an overview of the guidelines and the role of the public in meetings. Sister Libby Fernandez and Darrin Greer will work together to schedule the overview/presentation.

Staff Liaison Report: J.D. Warrick shared the following updates via email:

Totals are as of 1:00 p.m., October 18, 2022.

Channel Subscribers: 589 Subscribers, up from 578 last month

Sunday Masses:

10/16/22 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 117 views

10/09/22 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Fr. Rey appointed Pastor – 190 views

10/02/22 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 180 views

09/25/22 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 163 views

09/18/22 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 180 views

Other video streaming:

10/08/22 – Saturday-The Blessing of Animals – 78 views

10/03/22 – The Transitus of St. Francis – 78 views

Letter to the Bishop: Upon request of several Pastoral Council members, the chair drafted a letter to express our appreciation to Bishop Soto for his choice and installation of Fr. Rey as our new Pastor at St. Francis. The letter was reviewed and, with no objections, will be sent to the bishop’s office.

Parish Gala: It was reported that this year’s Parish Gala went well. John Iosefa and his group of singers gave a beautiful performance; it was very special and elegant with a perfect selection of music. Fr. Rey reported that the gala did not go in the red, which was great news. The date and location for future gala events will be reviewed; Fr. Rey suggested that it would be good if the event was closer to the Church. Marcia mention that we may need new blood for this event as the current leadership may be reaching burnout. Fr. Rey will continue to seek out volunteers/team ministry.

Use of the Church: Darrin Greer asked Fr. Rey if he would like the Parish Council to act as the facilitator for requests to use the church. Fr. Rey would like the council to focus on the pastoral life of the community. For example, Family Catechism as a Pastoral Ministry is something he would like to see. How can we encourage people to come back to the church; there’s an opportunity to participate – that’s pastoral. Another example is the Social Justice Ministry. Social justice starts from the heart.

Elementary School-CSAC Report: Marco Montano attended the CSAC meeting. The items relevant to the Parish Council in that meeting were related to a few areas of concern regarding safety. Marco clarified that the grants referenced earlier in the meeting were funded by the Department of Homeland Security. The grants came into existence in response to the rise of attacks on religious places of worship. Regarding the No Trespassing signage on the front steps, while the signage has been removed for now it should be noted that the signage serves a purpose to protect. Trespassing under California Penal Code

Sections 601 and 602 is an offense. It is only an offense if the trespassing occurs on land that is enclosed by a fence or has “no trespassing” signs posted. During mass the gates are open, so if “no trespassing” signs are not present it limits the ability for “do not return” citations to be enforced. In addition, Marco reported on several incidents in the past that shows the vulnerability of our parish to when the gates are open. It is important that we advocate for safety for all of us and especially to our children and the most vulnerable in our community. Hopefully we will be able to find a balance.

Fr. Rey thanked Marco for the helpful information that will serve us in our decision making moving forward.

Defibrillator – The defibrillators have battery packs. Janine Neely recommended signage be placed in the church to easily locate the defibrillators if needed and suggested that the sacristans be trained in its use/location. Darrin noted that defibrillators are designed to not require training. Fr. Rey mentioned that there are companies that we can pay to handle the servicing of the defibrillators – they could also check the fire extinguishers.

Guests: Kenton Myers provided a background and overview on a volunteer opportunity to provide meals to Sister Nora’s House. Kenton shared language that could be included in the bulletin to solicit volunteers. Kenton also provided a history and overview of the Grief Ministry that is recognized as part of the parish Outreach Ministry; in the past this ministry was connected/linked with the funeral ministry. Fr. Rey asked Kenton and Theresa Arciniega to write up a synopsis of the mission of the ministry that we can include in the bulletin to ignite it again.

Jean Iacino asked if we still have a Loaves & Fishes team. So much went underground during Covid-19, it would be good to have a refresher on what ministries are active and what volunteer opportunities exist.

Theresa Arciniega commented that at another church she attended she received a flyer in the mail welcoming her to the parish along with a list on ministries and a brief synopsis. Theresa inquired if the parish directory was updated with the current address and email. Fr. Rey is looking at options for updating the directory.

Mark Tavianini agreed and added that it would be good to know what the church needs, and what volunteer opportunities exist; the church is full of volunteers ready to help. Mark asked for clarification on when the Parish Council meetings are held. PC meetings are the second Tuesday of the month, depending on the Pastor’s availability.

Action Item: For the next Parish Council Meeting, Fr. Rey would like the Parish Council to collate/identify all prior/existing ministries. During the meeting we will review and determine which would be good committees.

Parish Picnic: Melba Hinojosa recommended that we have a Parish Picnic in October 2023 to coincide with the Feast of St. Francis. If agreed, we would need to start planning in January for the event to be successful. Fr. Rey suggested we could have a Ministry Market as well.

Parishioner Questions: Marcia Rooney shared the following questions from parishioners:

- **Is there a committee for Emergency Response preparedness?** Fr. Rey mentioned that other parishes received free Active Shooter Awareness presentations in the past, which may be something that we investigate. This question ties into the grant, and overall safety of the parish/school.

- **Are we following up on the photobooks?** Consensus was that the parish has exhausted all feasible possibilities for a successful resolution. The matter is closed.
- **Last election, there was concern that the voters had to put their names on the ballots.** Fr. Rey noted that the process for selecting parish council members will be reviewed and modified to align with the Diocese of Sacramento Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines.
- **What would it take to create mass mailings to our parishioners?** This would be a large effort. We will review options for gathering current contact information. Jean Iacino suggested also reaching out to past members that may have left the parish. It was noted that Myrna Rodriguez is the Membership chair. Theresa Arciniega, suggested that to answer how you bring people back, ask yourself what keeps you here; “I go where I am fed, what do you bring to the table?” Fr. Rey reminded everyone that we have a lot of work to do, but we will start off taking bite sizes – what can we do now? Sister Libby Fernandez suggested that it could be a welcome card in mass to update/provide your contact information. There are many options.
- **Will there be daily mass, instead of mass on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday?** Fr. Rey would like to see attendance in the current masses increase and wait and see what we need to adjust.
- **Are all the sound system improvements completed?** Yes, the sounds system renovations are complete.
- **Is the Step Ministry that we had prior to Covid-19 going to return?** The Steps Ministry is no longer feasible; however, we have been and continue to do outreach, it’s just in a different way. Fr. Rey commented that as a parish we can identify our talents and partner with other established programs, such as that offered by the Lutheran Church, and get together to share our gifts and our talents. We are one community. In addition, we need to be cognizant of the fact that the protocols are different now, and there are safety and security concerns.
- **Should we be concerned about the blank advertising spaces at the back of the bulletin to continue funding the bulletin?** Per J.D. Warrick, the bulletin does not cost us anything. While more advertisers would be welcome, they are not required to run the bulletin.
- **Will there be an event/ritual for grieving the Franciscan Friars leaving in 2016?** No. Melba shared that while the Franciscan Friars left, the Franciscan community is still very much alive in the parish. We have the Franciscan Sisters, and a local Secular Franciscan fraternity that people are welcome to join.
- **Will fireside chats come back?** Theresa Arciniega mentioned that in the past the fireside chats were a way for people to understand what is going on in the church and how things happen, like the bread ministry. Fr Rey mentioned that after the Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines workshop with the council members we will know more – the Church is not a democracy, the system is consultative, the council is advisory in nature.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, November 08, 2022. Melba Hinojosa and Marco Montano will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Sister Dorothy McCormack and Melba Hinojosa led the Council in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emer McKenna, vice chair/acting secretary