

Pax Christi Collaborative Finance Council Minutes

The March 19, 2025 meeting of the finance council was brought to order by Father Philip L. Erickson at 7 PM with a prayer. A general opening and closing prayer will be coming for us based on the prayers of the hours.

In attendance was President, Jerry Raque, Secretary, Paul Moon, Bob Schroeder, Rick Reinert, Carol Holliger, Judie Greiner and Jeff Korfhage. Absent was Monty Reeves and Hank Weiter.

The first item on the agenda was the update on the St. Therese closure recommendation to Archbishop Fabre. The next steps would be for the Pastoral Council to meet and Archbishop to act on the recommendation. That timeframe is not known at this time. It could come in weeks or months. There will still be discussions with the Parish as to how that will look and happen. Father is adamant that the Parish family have proper time to process, grieve and discuss the loss of the Parish. The other two Parishes need to step up to make sure that the Parishioners of St. Therese are made to feel wanted, welcome and needed in our community.

A discussion was made about the overall future planning of the Archdiocese in general. It is widely anticipated and talked about that a serious reconstruction of how the Archdiocese will look going forward within the next few years. This will no doubt involved re-structuring (closures and mergers) of many local Parishes. The time is NOW for us to start having serious discussions about our strengths and weaknesses, so as to be able to advocate our cause when those discussions start.

Lengthy and often spirited discussion went back and forth about our financial standing and the need for fundraising and how to go about it. Too much unorganized back and forth to keep up with and put in minutes, amendments, additions or deletions are welcome at the next meeting prior to approval.

The sample Lisa Baxter provided for the financial report in the bulletin was unanimously liked and approved to be placed in the bulletin going forward. Announcements before or after Masses next weekend to the congregations about the new financial report and a invitation for Parishioners to comment or ask questions after the Mass will be held with the following schedule agreed to;

4 PM Saturday: Bob Schroeder, 5:30 PM, Bob Schroeder, 9 AM, Jerry, Judie and Paul, 10:30 AM, Jeff Korfhage and 7 PM, Jerry, Judie and Paul.

Discussions for the percentages to pay office / staff expenses was made and the council would like to have data on the number of envelopes and attendees on average at each Church before the final decision is made.

Roberts Hall at St. Elizabeth will be opened to the council to tour and something needs to be decided on how we go forward with this property. Soon and very soon.

Staff positions will not change going forward.

With nothing else coming before the finance committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Submitted by Paul Gary Moon, Secretary