

Mother of Perpetual Help Parish

Pastoral Council Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2025, 6:00 PM
Notre Dame Room, Parish Center

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Mother of Perpetual Help Pastoral Council was held in the Notre Dame Room on Monday, March 3, 2025.

Council members in attendance were: Fr Matthew Perumpil, Pastor, Gary Jensen, Council Chair, Sharon Anderer, Devan Gracyalny, Don Pederson, Vice-Chair, Dave Shook, John Weber, and Susan Scharmach, Secretary. Also in attendance were Debbie Peterson and John Gomez, Trustees.

Excused were Karen Brah and Debra Morgan.

Also in attendance was Rita Baumann, Communications Staff.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM.
2. The Meeting opened with the Jubilee Prayer for the 2025 Holy Year which was read by all.
3. Community Outreach Brainstorming – Gary Jensen & Rita Baumann
 - Rita provided a draft of the Brochure which received positive feedback
 - Rita will edit per comments received and provide an update
4. Liaison Reports – Updates are attached
5. Discernment Team Update – Gary Jensen
 - Review of the Orientation meeting was provided
 - Working on a draft for the Pulpit announcement
 - Draft of Nomination Ballot has been completed
6. Parish Festival Gift Basket & Sponsorship – Gary Jensen
 - Funds have been collected for the Gift Basket and Gary and Susan will purchase the items
8. Pastor's Report – Fr. Matthew
 - Father provided an overview of his recent visit home
 - Lenten programs are listed in the Bulletin which will provide for personal and spiritual renewal
 - Ash Wednesday March 5th Masses
 - Stations of the Cross Wednesdays 6:30 PM East Site and 2:30 PM Fridays West Site
 - Adoration & Evening Prayer: Evening prayer weekdays 6:00 PM; Friday March 7 10-hour Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM; Fridays Adoration Hour with Divine Mercy 3:00-4:00 PM and Adoration Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM
 - Reconciliation Opportunities:
 - Individual Confessions Saturday, March 8th 8:30 AM
 - Individual Confessions after 8:00 AM Masses on Wednesdays and Fridays
 - 12 Hours of Reconciliation Wednesday, April 9th 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM at St. Matthias Parish
 - Parish Mission: April 7, 8 and 9
 - Jubilee Year
 - Bringing Marriage Home – For those divorced and remarried or married outside of the Catholic Church, process for validation of marriage within the Catholic Church

- Prayer and Care for the dying
- State of the School was held on March 3rd which discussed increasing student enrollment for 24-25 school year, parent/student involvement
- Senior Ministry
 - Sponsoring "Fat Tuesday" Luncheon with RSVP of 140 individuals
 - Working on a video to show what is being done
- Budget preparations are underway

The meeting closed with the Prayer for the Health of Pope Francis recited by all.

Thereafter the meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Next meeting: Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Notre Dame Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Scharmach

Susan Scharmach, Secretary

Liaison Report Updates

- Finance – Gary Jensen
 - Review of July-December 2024 Financials
 - Revenue up 8%
 - Expenses down 5%
 - Overall positive Finance Meeting Overview
 - Review of July-December 2024 Financials - Revenue + 8%
 - Expenses down 5%.
 - Over positive financial position
 - Parish following Arch assign audit requirements
 - Creating an investment review committee
 - Discussed Building & Grounds projects
 - financial position
 - Parish following Archdiocese assign audit requirements
 - Creating an investment review committee
 - Discussed Building & Grounds projects
- School – Gary Jensen
 - MPH is working with MQSCA on Lenten opportunities, i.e., Stations, reconciliation, etc.
 - 3/08/2025 - Sip & Support
 - 3/14/2024 - Spring Dance
 - 3/22/2025 - Re-enrollment Breakfast
 - 5/10/2025 - Scrap Drive
- Buildings & Grounds – John Gomez
 - City of West Allis has granted permit for the circle Drive at the East site
 - Next step is proxy to the Archdiocese
- Faith Formation – Devan Gracyalny
 - Candles prepared by Faith Formation students were blessed and sent home.
 - Confirmation students attended the Retreat in St John the Evangelist Church.
 - First Holy communion children are being prepared for first reconciliation.
 - Circle of Grace classes, a requirement of the Archdiocese is being taken during first two weeks in March.
 - A blessed Crucifix with a prayer will be given to the families of faith formation students encouraging them to pray before the crucifix as a family.
 - Flyers are given to the students from 4 to 12 graders to participate in one date of the Stations of the Cross conducted in the parish.
 - All the students will be prepared to make their confession during Lent.
- Liturgy – Karen Brah
 - Ushers Update – new volunteers are being trained and scheduling grid has been implemented
 - Lent – March 7 there will be a special holy hour to pray for Non-Practicing Catholics
 - Lenten Mission – April 7, 8, 9 Dan Schultz presenter
 - Stations of the Cross – Wednesdays at 6:30 PM East site and Fridays 2:00 PM West site
 - Holy Week – Palm Sunday 4/13, Holy Thursday 4/17, Good Friday 4/18, Holy Saturday 4/19
 - Other Special Dates – Confirmation will be held on Wednesday May 28 with Bishop Sherman Presider
- Human Concerns – Dave Shook & Kathy Smith
 - Xxx
 - Ongoing Business (changes, new information):

- Bereavement: When the spouse of the bereaved is still alive and in the area, whenever possible the sympathy card will be delivered in person by a Minister of Care instead of mailed.
- Egg prices are going up so anyone who provides hard boiled eggs for St. Ben's or does a large amount of baking for any of the groups we work with, has been offered compensation from the Outreach budget. So far all have declined the offer.
- MPH Site becoming more handicap accessible – work continuing; very expensive, grants will be investigated.
- Recent Spotlights:
 - January's Spotlight on the Women's Care Center went very well with 2 loads of items and one delivery of financial donations. They were very appreciative and after discussion with them and at the HCC meeting, future drives will be in the summer months when their need is greatest.
 - A.R.K. projects ran very well and brought excellent feedback from organizers, recipients, bakers, and those who delivered for Valentine's Day. Leftover grant money was used to purchase materials for next year and to finance the event on Shrove Tuesday for seniors and volunteers in multiple ministries.
 - Future A.R.K. Outreach will include Allis Care Center at Easter with Adult Confirmation candidates providing cards for residents, and to Veterans near Veteran's Day.
- New Business:
 - Lent – Congo Helping Hands – foreign outreach; Project Return Dignity Kits – local outreach; CRS Rice Bowl – decided to offer after discussion of the discontinuation of NAID federal grants causing significant disruption of CRS efforts.
 - Auction Basket for the ERAS Senior Network Tapestry Gala fundraiser will be donated by the committee, West Allis theme.
 - March "10 hour Adoration" - HCC members will attend when able vs. a specific time due to work and volunteer schedules.
 - The HCC is sponsoring a table at the SSND Women's Leadership Luncheon on Alzheimer's.
 - Festival Basket donation was discussed.
- Parish Engagement Committee – Deb Morgan
 - Comedy Sports/Dinner event was a success and posted a net profit
 - Trivia Night close to a sell-out. Set-up, schedule of events and assignments complete. Prize amounts established
 - Pickleball scheduled for Feb. 15 and March 15
 - Tech Event in March with date to be determined
 - Second event for April and a larger event for October (Octoberfest; Chili Cook-off) were discussed
- Inspiration Team – Deb Morgan
 - Fr. Matthew encouraged team members to look for and invite gifted and talented parishioners to consider discerning to be members of Pastoral Council
 - Lent is perfect time to engage parish to renew spiritual lives individually and as a community
 - Team can set example by attending and inviting others to attend Lenten services
 - Suggestion request for parishioner participation in and marketing for hospitality weekends
- Communications– Susan Scharmach
 - Rita has been working on draft of Community Outreach Brochure