

SEVEN DOLORS PASTORAL COUNCIL

~ For the greater glory of God, we will do as Christ tells us. ~

PASTORAL COUNCIL

In Attendance: Tamra Storms (S), Mo Glende, Judy Parks, Hannah Coffman (SDCW rep)

Absent: Joe Wolf

Ex Officio: Fr. Leo Blasi, Gloria Green

Opening Prayer - Fr. Leo Blasi

Approval of Minutes from Monday, August 26th, 2024 (did not meet in September)

REPORTS

Finance Report — Mo Glende, meeting 9/26/24

- Stacie Levendofsky reviewed overall budget, noting IT expenses are up slightly.
- Funds received via bequests were consolidated. Seven Dolors receives interest payments twice per year.
- The Heidl property auction will now likely be in early 2025.
- Discussion was held regarding investments and trying to find the best interest rates. Fr. Leo reviewed the Diocese's investment options.
- A full remodel of the church kitchen, with an extension, is approved and planned to begin in 2025.
- Finance Council Guidelines are being updated for review at the next meeting.
- One additional member is still needed.

(The complete report is attached and becomes a permanent part of these minutes.)

Latino Liaison — Gloria Green

- Father Rafael is coming Saturday evenings for Bible study and will also hear confessions. He will also continue having Mass on the first three Sundays.
- Madres Cecelia and Christina are no longer traveling to Manhattan and will remain Salina, due to the Diocese being short on staff.
- Seven Dolors' Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration was held on Sept 29th. The celebration raised approximately \$800. Beneficiaries were KSU students and families of Hispanic decent that need additional financial assistance for living expenses.
- K-State students will visit the food pantry to see the items so they can create bi-lingual recipes with the items that are available.
- Multiple celebrations are being planned to commemorate Our Lady and patroness of Seven Dolors.
 - Traditional Matachines dancers will lead the procession during Mass on December 8th in honor of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A big celebration of food and fellowship will take place in the MCS Cafeteria after the Spanish Mass.
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration will be held Dec 12th at midnight. Danza de Matachines will be performed and a presentation of flowers will take place. A skit is being planned depicting Juan Diego on the hill. Hot chocolate and sweet bread will be served in the church basement following the the celebration. Novenas also start 9 weeks prior to the Feast Day.
- To prepare for the activities, a blessing of the crowns worn by dancers during the Danza de Matachines will take place during Mass on Dec 1st. The Traditional Matachine Danza Community Banquet will be held in the church basement following Mass. There will be information about the origins of this Danza, which has been around for centuries.

Commission Reports

Liturgy

- A meeting will take place early November to plan for Advent.

MCS/Council of Education

- The 44th annual Buttons and Bows craft show and MCS fundraiser will be held November 9th at the National Guard Armory.
- The Luckey Cross Country teams finished their season at the top of the BVL! Both teams earned league champs and championship banners for the school gymnasium.
- The A-Team Cardinal Volleyballers medaled with a 3rd place finish in the BVL tournament and had a 15-3 record! Many thanks to Coach Hampton and Coach Hund for all their work with with the A, B, and C teams.
- The conjoined Luckey-BV football team also put in a good effort for their season this year. Many thanks to Coach Russell for helping get our player to and from practice for the season.
- Basketball season will kick off November 14th at Linn. The master schedule for all sports and results can be found at: <https://www.manhattancatholicschools.org/athletics>
- Parish Campus Clean-up is Saturday, November 16th starting at 9a.
- Thanksgiving break is November 25th-29th.
- A school Nutrition Cook and Girl's Head and Assistant Basketball coaches are still needed.
- Applications for substitute teachers are being accepted. Please contact the administrative office for details at 785-565-5050.

Catholic Formation — Gloria Green reporting

- Adult Education sessions are being hosted by STM for the Fall season.
- 180+ kids are enrolled for Religious Education on Wednesday evenings. Many of the students will be receiving Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- A Confirmation Retreat will be held on October 27th for the Confirmands.

- A new Formation Director will be needed as Jenn Hinnen is moving to Colorado soon.

Parish Life — Gloria Green reporting, meeting was held in October

- The Parish Picnic was held at the MCS gym on Sept. 22nd. Parishioners contributed salads, hot dishes, and desserts. Bingo and the cake walk were a big success. Distribution of prizes will be re-organized for next year's celebration.
- The church Birthday Dinner will be March 2nd, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, with a Mardi Gras theme.

Building and Grounds — Fr. Leo, meeting will be held 8/25/24

- A full remodel of the church kitchen, with an extension, is approved and planned to begin in 2025.
- A new Parish Center on the north of Luckey building is also in discussion and in the pre-planning stage.
- The current Parish Center needs minor upgrades for safety and security.
- Plans to replace the 'white house' with a preschool are being discussed with the city. It is a functional plan for the overall MCS campus and expansion of enrollment in the future. The need is urgent.
 - A new preschool would free up space in the elementary school due to an increase in enrollment. The current building situation does not allow all those interested to enroll. The cut-off for enrollment is 40 due to spacial limitations, however, over 60 requested enrollment. The potential new building will be able to house 100 children with five classrooms. Funds would be conserved by using the same contractor as the kitchen remodel. Designating the basement as a community storm shelter may also allow partial funding from grants.
 - The 'white house' project may be able to use material off the front of the house or make the preschool building look like the white house in order to appease the Historical Society. This will also allow the building to retain esthetics for neighbors across the street.
 - Parking will be addressed as a part of the preschool project and would create approximately 180 spaces for the church.

Evangelization — Judy Parks

- SDCW now has an outreach chair for welcoming parishioners. There are several members interested in joining the mission of the welcome committee and asking new members to join commissions and activities.
- Bishop Vincke has recommended to appoint a couple to lead Neocatechumenal Way (NCW). This formation helps deepen the faith of adults that have already been baptized without repeating the sacrament of Baptism. NCW places a strong emphasis on 'New Evangelization' outlined by Pope Francis.
- The Parish Mission will take place in Advent.

Social Action — Tamra Storms

- Arts on the Green was held Sept 8th, 2024 at the Green Space north of the Luckey Building. Almost \$4000 was raised for MART - Manhattan Area Resettlement Team - and their families.
- Pilgrim Bread sales will be held after Masses on Nov 16th and 17th. MESI, Ogden House of Hope, and Spanish Ministry will be the beneficiaries.
- The annual Advent Giving Tree will be placed in the vestibule starting the weekend before Advent. Items collected will be gifted to local families in need.

Old Business

- Nomination slips for parish council positions will be placed in the church pews. The nominees will be contacted and appointed by Fr. Leo.

New Business

- Pope Francis has declared December 9th a Holy Day of Obligation for the Feast of Immaculate Conception. It will be a Holy Day of Obligation since the 8th falls on a Sunday.
- Positions needed: an assistant to the church Secretary, Formation Director, and Project Director for the preschool building project.
- SDWC now has a liaison for the Pastoral Council. This will likely be a rotating representative. More information from SDWC will be included in Pastoral Council minutes moving forward.

Pastor's Comments

Announcements

Next Meeting: Monday, November 18th, 2024 @ 7p in the church basement

Closing Prayer - Fr. Leo