

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
November 5, 2024

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Lisa Alt, Lori Bernard, Mikey Disbennett, Bridget Eichhold, Mike Essen, Alan Gerken, Karen Hultquist, Karen Kovacs, Gina Leranath, Brian Linnemann, Greg Male, Nick Roos

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**CLERGY IN ATTENDANCE:** Fr. Andrew Umberg

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mary Dadosky, Donna Frazee, Angie Heisel

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Nick Roos

**OPENING PRAYER:** Nick Roos

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS PASTORAL COUNCIL (PC) MEETING MINUTES:**

PC did not meet in October. The minutes from the September meeting were not reviewed this evening. They will be reviewed and approved with the November minutes at the December 2024 PC meeting.

**SCHOOL REPORT:**

Principal Heisel reported.

- 1) **October Events:** October was a busy month, with events including the annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, DC and the visit by students and teachers of the Lycée Notre-Dame Saint-Sigisbert, which is St. Ignatius' sister school in Nancy, France. St. Ignatius will send a delegation to Nancy in March.
- 2) **Religious In-Service/Sacramental Prep:** The teachers had their first religious retreat of the year, and the 7<sup>th</sup> graders were commissioned for Confirmation prep. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are preparing for their First Reconciliation.
- 3) **Superintendent's Visit:** Mr. Matt Daniels, the new Archdiocese of Cincinnati (AOC) Superintendent of Schools, visited St. Ignatius for the first time and toured the facilities.
- 4) **First Trimester:** The first trimester ends on November 15, and Parent Teacher Conferences will occur the following week. Prospective family tours are beginning.
- 5) **EdChoice Funding for 2025-26:** The State of Ohio has not yet announced the level of funding for the EdChoice Scholarship for the 2025-26 school year, but it is expected to be similar to this year's levels.

**FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT:**

Mary Dadosky reported.

- 1) **Parish Financial Report:** The annual Financial Report was delayed from September so that Fr. Umberg could take part. The report was published in the November 03 Bulletin, and members of Finance Council (FC) presented a short summary at all Masses on the weekend of November 02/03.

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- 2) **Parish Audit:** The AOC completed its audit of the parish last month. The biggest feedback was that several ancillary accounts from various parish groups are not being kept by the parish office and need to be moved in-house.
- 3) **Business Managers Hired:** The audit also concluded that the business office is understaffed, and so 2 new Business Managers have been hired; one will now oversee bookkeeping of the ancillary accounts. The second Business Manager will come on board after the first of the year. At that point, the current Business Manager, Rick Berning, will transition to part-time, preparatory to retiring later next year.
- 4) **Maintenance Vehicle:** The all-purpose pickup truck used by Maintenance gave out last month. The office is still advertising for a donated vehicle but will likely need to purchase one. Funds for a new truck have been budgeted.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) **PC Contact Info:** This evening, PC members received an updated hard copy roster with emails and cell numbers. PC members are asked to note email address changes for Nick Roos and Karen Hultquist. The Parish Office has also been given a public contact roster.
- 2) **IggyFest 2024:** The 2024 parish festival was incredibly successful, with a net of \$224,000. This is up \$48,000 from last year's results, and just \$500 shy of the record high.
- 3) **PC By-Laws Review:** Mike Essen reported on the progress of the By-Laws review. Several members have provided input. Work will continue in chunks, and all changes will be reviewed by Fr. Umberg. A draft will be presented to PC for approval in the Spring.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Fr. Umberg's Introduction:** Fr. Andrew Umberg was welcomed to PC, talked about his background, and briefed PC on how he was settling in since his arrival on October 12.
- 2) **Sanctuary Renovation Project:** Fr. Mannebach had been planning a sanctuary remodeling project prior to his departure, to be paid for with money already in hand from the parish's "Church Beautification Fund." Fr. Umberg took a vote at all Masses the weekend of October 27th, asking for a mandate for the proposed project. The majority voted "yes". This project will involve the removal of the top step of the sanctuary, as well as the step where the ambo is located, the cutting of the back wall (in order to move the tabernacle two feet further back), an adaptation of the tabernacle steps, and a replacement of the worn sanctuary carpet with new dark blue carpet.  
The cost is estimated to be well under \$200,000 and should be completed in around 4 weeks.  
Financial approval from the AOC was already secured by Fr. Mannebach, but the Worship Office also needs to sign off on the project, so we are currently waiting for that approval, as well as for scheduling and final estimates from the contractors.  
Weekend Masses would continue to be held in the church, but daily Masses would be moved to Loyola Hall during the renovation. The location for the Thanksgiving Day Mass is still to be determined.  
Significant discussion was had about the project this evening, with several issues and questions raised by PC, namely:

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- PC had not received formal notification from Fr. Mannebach regarding the project and was surprised to hear of it.
- PC was also surprised that Fr. Umberg took a vote from parishioners at weekend Masses, rather than approaching PC about the proposal.
- Why schedule the work now?

Fr. Umberg was surprised to learn that PC was unaware, since on his end it looked like the process was well underway when he arrived. The driving factor in moving forward so quickly is the potential fall hazard posed by the steps on the main sanctuary level. Other reasons include: the contractors are available now and may not be later; cost estimates will almost certainly rise if the work is pushed out to next year; there is a liturgical window of opportunity right now before the Advent/Christmas seasons get underway. Fr. Umberg agreed that this was an unusual situation and not one that he intends to repeat, as his practice is to consult with his Council before taking major steps such as this.

**3) Thanksgiving Day Mass/Reception:** The 9:15 am Thanksgiving Day Mass is traditionally staffed by PC members in liturgical roles. PC members also host a coffee-and-donuts reception immediately after Mass downstairs in Loyola Hall. As stated above, if the sanctuary renovation project goes forward as planned, Mass might need to take place in Loyola Hall, and the reception may not happen. PC members are asked to look for an email from Mike Essen with updates in the next week or so.

### **PASTOR'S REMARKS:**

- 1) Pastoral Priorities:** Fr. Umberg shared some of his pastoral priorities with PC. Chief among them is the continued implementation of the Beacons of Light directives in all areas of parish functioning. Another focus will be the spiritual and liturgical formation of the school children. A major challenge facing our parish is outreach to families to ensure regular Sunday Mass attendance, particularly when sports schedules interfere with getting to church.
- 2) Role of Pastoral Council:** PC asked Fr. Umberg how he sees the role of Pastoral Council. Fr. Umberg indicated that he views PC as a consultative body and a sounding board to aid in his decision-making, to process the parish vision with him and be able to communicate that vision out to the parish community. The "Pastor's Report" will be a central agenda item at every meeting, but Fr. Umberg is also looking for PC member input on agenda items, so he requests that members reach out to Nick Roos as items arise.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Fr. Umberg

**NEXT MEETING:** Tentatively set for December 3, 2024, at 7:00 pm, in the School Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Frazee  
Pastoral Council Recording Secretary