

**ST. MARY MAGDALENE  
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

October 21, 2024

**Opening Prayer:** 6:08pm led by Fr. Chris

**In Attendance:** Matt Patterson, Kathy Pipenhagen, Kent Bell, Mary Calgaro, Stephen Dombrowski, Kim Celentano, Merrily Pearson   **Absent:** Jen Cunningham

**St. Vincent De Paul:** Presentation: Erma Liondecker, Director and Supervisor; Mike Anderson, District President

- SVDP organization starts with the parish conference member which meets and reports to the district level, of which there are 12 in the state of AZ. The next level is the council that provides the help and resources. National and international are the last two levels.
- Erma was called to reactivate SVDP at SMM. They are not familiar with the situation from the previous SVDP at SMM.
- To start up and do it properly and well there would need to be 20 people to begin with. Training is available all year except for the months of Nov.- Dec. To be up and running by Feb./ March, training should start at the first of the year. The first general membership meeting is March 15. Conference must meet 2x's a month. There are 9 people interested so far. A president, vice president, secretary and spiritual advisor should be chosen in Nov. SVDP vets the candidates for membership.
- Kent asked, how do the members represent SMM if they move out of the parish? Reply; Vincentians if they move and are in the same district would still be representing us. Only the Council can change that.
- Fr. Chris said the biggest hurdle is accountability from our last experience. Answered; that SVDP is here at the pleasure of the pastor. District president, Mike Anderson, gets regular reports. If there is a problem, two people are to look into it to find out why. There will be a close relationship with the district president, Mike Anderson, for at least a good year.
- The parish support is to supply private office space, locking cabinet, phone, access to web-based computer and food pantry storage. If office space is shared there will need to be scheduled hours for use. The council determines how money is spent. An account is opened with the district financial office on the account. 10% of the income is tithed to the next level up.
- How do we give help in the meantime? Merrily said that SMM has it handled. SVDP replied that people can be referred to conferences such as St. Tim's, but they wouldn't have the same priority. SMM has \$5000.00 set aside and the conference needs to decide what they need to start with for funds.
- Next steps
  1. Pray and discern
  2. Membership drive
  3. Invite to a day of reflection
  4. Schedule 1<sup>st</sup> Conference meeting
- Presentation ended 7:30
- Fr. Chris feels better about what he learned about SVDP but needs time to think about it. He's not ready to commit yet. Nothing will happen during the holidays. Would like to invite the 9 interested people to the Day of Reflection, then open it up to the parish to find out about SVDP. The thought is to gradually expand. March would be a good time to start.

**Approval of Minutes:** No September meeting due to lack of a quorum. Motion to approve August Minutes: Kent Bell;  
Seconded by Stephen Dombrowski.

**Finance Council:**

- 3 new members. No chair or vice-chair. Costs are going up for the parish and the collections are flat.

**Holy Hour:**

- Request signups for December. E-mail Matt with your day that you will cover.

**Parish Updates:**

- Sale of former rectory was put on the market last week

- Security and Access Changes – For security and office health the office access needed to be regulated. Security cameras at entrances. Fr. Chris can access and arm remotely. Discussion that the Church building, especially at every liturgy, needs security considering the increase of attacks on Catholic Churches.
- November Fest is good to go. Community and fellowship tables are all accounted for. Setup to begin after 9:00am Mass. Adoration Chapel to be closed because of the activity outside the doors. Raffles are only for Trivia Night and fundraiser for the Seminarians.

**Pastoral Plan/PLC Updates:**

- Final draft to be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Pastoral Council Updates:**

- End of term members are Kent, Matt and Kathy
- To replace retired members the invitation for those interested in serving on the pastoral council should go out to the parish, then interviewed.
- Pastoral and Finance Councils Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00pm, hosted by Fr. Chris at the new Rectory. All three priests will be there and approximately 25-30 people. There will be sign-ups for sides.

**Open Forum:**

- Council members communicated parishioner concerns and frustrations that were raised regarding financial support and communication for the Pastoral Care ministry. Fr. Chris committed to following up with both staff members and ministry leaders regarding the concerns.

**Closing Prayer:** 8:33pm led by Fr. Chris

**Next Meeting:** 6:00pm, November 18, 2024  
Respectfully submitted, Kathy Pipenhagen, Secretary