

**Church of the Resurrection Pastoral Council Minutes
December 3, 2024
St. Paul Center for New Evangelization**

Attendance :

P=present. E=excused

Pastoral Council (voting members)

<u>Member</u>	<u>Status</u>
Martin Fienkeng (VP)	P
Greg Jolissaint (P)	P
Bill Judy	E
Tom Lauer	P
Gina Maclean	E
Lorraine Miano-Fike (CS)	P
Cathy Parrish	P
Paul Reif	P
Carolyn Sherman (RS)	P
Paul Venginickal	P
Brad Weiss	P
Julie Winpisinger	P

Others in attendance

<u>Clergy</u>	
Msgr. Andy Aaron	Pastor
Fr. Paul Kongnyuy	Associate Pastor
<u>Committees</u>	
Liturgy	Roy Harris
Social Justice	Peggy Gessler, John Wilkin
Sustainability	Colleen Guler
<u>Invited Guests</u>	
RSPS HSA rep	Sara Thomas

1. **Call to Order** at 6:15 pm by PC President
2. **Opening Prayer** by Fr. Andy
3. **75-min Timekeeper Assignment/Volunteer** Cathy Parrish
4. **Roll Call/Establish Quorum** Recording Secretary, Carolyn Sherman – quorum was met.
5. The **November 2024 Minutes** were approved electronically following the PC meeting conducted at Church of the Resurrection.

6. **Approval of the PC Agenda** – including any new agenda items. No new items, agenda approved by PC President.
7. **Special Presentation: Resurrection Sustainability Ministry** Colleen Guler
Colleen provided a briefing and handout on the Ministry's charter, tasks, and actions (added at end of minutes).
- The floor was then opened for discussion. Top priority was recycling on campus. Colleen offered that while recycling is good, even better is to **reduce**: reduce use of single-use plastic bottles, plastic tablecloths, paper, etc.
 - There is a water refill station (along with a drinking fountain) in the hallway adjacent to the coffee lounge, to the left of the single restroom. Many people probably don't know about this – many PC members were not aware. Since individual reuseable beverage containers are now such a way of life, at large events, should publicize/recommend use of this refill station.
 - For large events, also consider using the large orange beverage containers as a water source (rather than providing bottled water).
 - At present there are recycling bins in the Pastoral Center – recycling gets picked up twice a week. There are small recycling bins in the school.
 - There are no recycling bins in the hall or coffee lounge. If bins were to be placed there, to be effective, they would have to be used **properly**. Can only accept certain items, and they must be free of food, clean, dry, and empty. One "bad" item can contaminate the whole lot.
 - **ACTION: Colleen Guler, HSA rep Sara Thomas, and Julie Winpisinger** will look into recycling at the parish. They will conduct a recycling "audit" to see how well people are already recycling and will also make recommendations as to how many and of what size bins to purchase. Signs showing what is admissible would be made/obtained for each bin. Once a plan is in place, Fr. Andy will have Dan Bredice make the purchase. **ACTION: Recycling POC(s)** will present findings at the January PC meeting.
8. **Pastor's Report/Update** Fr. Andy Aaron

8a Re-iterated that he is big on adult education, as our Catholic formation is really a lifelong journey.

8b Update on Church of the Resurrection finances – Fr. Andy had learned from staff that donations are about 6% higher than this time last year. PC would like to know if monthly income is covering monthly expenses, and, is the parish able to

pay the mortgage as well as regular monthly expenses? **ACTION: Fr. Andy** will ask the staff to prepare a financial update at the January meeting.

Suggestions which followed: make financial info available in the bulletin, possibly in the Pastor's Corner (which is well read!) We currently reflect what amount is taken in, consider indicating if there are any shortfalls. **ACTION: Fr. Andy** will determine where and how best to showcase this information.

8c Does the parish have overdue/postponed maintenance and repairs (e.g. RSPS HVAC systems?) Fr. Andy says we're on top of it —there is a plan.

8d How can the PC help Fr. Andy? Simply by bringing these things (finances, etc.) to his attention. PC members added at parishioner often ask if we are meeting expenses.

9. **Review of November PC Committee Reports** (Exceptions Only – information discussed in November) – Corresponding Secretary, Lorraine Miano-Fike

9a Liturgy Committee (Roy Harris) – Christmas Eve (4pm Mass x2 – in the Church and Hall; 6pm, 8pm, and 10pm in the Church) and Christmas Day Mass (9:30am and 11:30am) schedule; reminders of Reconciliation opportunities (Wednesday Dec 4, 11, and 18 from 4pm – 6pm in the Pastoral Center; Saturday Dec 7, 14, and 21 from 3:30pm – 4:50pm in the Church) and Penance Service (**December 17**, 7pm – 9pm in the Church)

The 4:00 Christmas Eve mass remains the most popular/attended mass of the year. The Knights will once again oversee parking between the 4:00 and 6:00 masses.

Fr. Andy noted that people pretty much expect “standing room only” at Christmas masses, due in large part to family and friends who are visiting. Fully expect that some folks will be listening to mass from the Gathering Space.

No mass in the gym this year. Roy pointed out the logistical challenges of setting up the gym; in the past, would set up for 500, but actual attendance was considerably less.

Roy reported that Cindy has order a second holy water dispenser (in addition to the one already in the Pastoral Center). It, along with a basket

of small holy water containers, will be placed to the left of the reception desk in the Gathering Space (near the area of the AED).

9b Social Justice (John Wilkin, Peggy Gessler)

Thanksgiving donations: 111 hams were given out; 47 families received \$75 gift cards to Weis.

During October and November, SVDP saw 263 families and distributed over \$40,000 in assistance. The pantry distributed 585 bags of groceries, with families being able to do their own shopping in the pantry. When the pantry was in the church hall, SVDP staff would have to do the shopping, since the pantry was only open during RSPS school hours.

Adopt-A-Family – While individuals have approached SVDP to be added to the list, the way that SVDP administers the program is through partnering with parishes such as St. Gregory's and St. Veronica's. The parishes provide a list of needy families, and those families receive gift cards from parishioners.

Food stamps/WIC only cover food – not items such as shampoo, toothpaste, detergent, diapers, feminine care products, etc. **ACTION: SVDP member**—consider adding to bulletin SDVP corner that certain items are not covered by food stamps/WIC.

St. Paul parishioner John Gilbert is the driving force behind the Cold Weather Shelter ministry, which this year will be held first week of February. If you don't know him or his work, check him out on pages 14 and 15 of the December Catholic review!

10. Pastoral Council Business

10a Ministry Fair – **ACTION: Greg** will work with Mary Reif (Fellowship Lead) and Paul Reif on organizing several ministry fairs (instead of one big ministry fair) likely for the month of February. Whichever ministries sign up for the first weekend of the month will have the benefit of dovetailing on Fellowship's Coffee and Donuts. Ministries that sign up for subsequent weekend ministry fairs will need to DIY the coffee and donuts. **ACTION: Fellowship** to draw up a purchase list for ministries hosting C&D.

10b ACTS pulpit talks by ACTS member. Reinforced the idea that when the pulpit talks are given, a good time to do that would be a first Sunday, when C&D are served.

10c PC Bylaws – There was a PC attorney who used review the by-laws. Don't need to be an attorney to do this, just need knowledge of governance. **ACTION: Gina and Greg** will take this on. Of note is that PC members use to be required to participate on in a committee—this needs to be re-visited.

11. Old Business

- Location of dumpsters (Martin Fienkeng)—Martin working on it
- Diagram for setup of table/chairs in Coffee Lounge (Mary Reif). Working on it
- Additional Holy Water holders (Cathy Hanks)—not moving on this—the large holy water font is sufficient.
- Coffee and Donuts – sharing the opportunity (see Ministry Fair, 10 a)
- Security of Church Foyer during Masses (Martin Fienkeng)—work in progress. We have the cameras, need to figure out who will monitor the screens.
- Parish picnic: Lorraine Miano Fike (picnic committee) had the two parish councils vote on preferred venue – Mary's Land Farm or Resurrection Hall. There was no clear outcome. Will continue to work on a location.
- Parishioners asked whether Magnificats can be re-located from the Pastoral Center to the church on weekends for convenient pick-up. Lorraine had reached out to Peggy Gahagan – can't do across the board, but if individuals email her (danandpeggy@verizon.net), she might be able to make it happen.
- Greg will work with Dan on a common vendor for parishioners wanting to purchase nametags.

12. Joint St. Paul and Resurrection PC Retreat

- Julie Winpisinger, COTR, and Jay Rowley, SP, will conduct Joint PC planning and coordination. Julie will update us on plans in January.

13. New CAM Feedback Review (from November 23-24 and November 30-December Masses)

- Q: Funds collected via Faith Direct – does all of it go directly to Resurrection?

A: 100% of funds collected via Faith Direct are managed by Resurrection.

14. HSA Update (Sara Thomas)

- Hosted a Friendsgiving – collected may items for SVDP. Hope to hold more Social Justice activities.
- Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, 7 December. The Card Ministry will also be there.
- Is there an easter egg hunt or should RSPS organize one? Yes, the Knights organize an annual hunt, and the Cub Scouts fill eggs. Participation has been down – RSPS is invited to advertise the egg hunt so more may enjoy

15. Additional Items Added to the Agenda (during agenda approval, item #6) – none

16. Future PC Discussions

- Fr. Andy’s Installation Mass January 12, 2025--11:30 am Mass celebrated by Archbishop Lori
- Mid-year finance update at January meeting

17. PC Holiday Party December 10th at Martin and Mathilda Fienkeng’s Home, 10141 Saddle Brook Farm Trail, Woodstock, 21163

*start time 6:30pm; NO meeting; optional attendance; spouses/significant others invited

*Martin will smoke chicken and beef

*PC members attending should bring a Side or a Dessert, plus the beverage of their choice—via Signup Genius.

18. Closing Prayer Greg

19. Adjournment 7:30 pm

Next PC Meeting Tuesday January 21st, 7:45pm – 9:00pm, Church of the Resurrection (Hall Meeting Room, accessible via the exterior Hall Handicapped Entrance)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carolyn Sherman, Recording Secretary

See next page for **Sustainability Ministry presentation to the Resurrection Parish Council**

Sustainability Ministry presentation to the Resurrection Parish Council, by Colleen Guler

- ❖ **Why we exist** - we are based on three elements
 - Catholic Social Teaching - Care for Creation
 - Laudato Si' - Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor
 - How our actions impact the earth and especially those who are most vulnerable
 - Climate Change - It is real, and we have certainly felt its impact in Ellicott City

- ❖ **What we are tasked with** - education, action, and advocacy
 - **Education within the Parish**
 - Raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues
 - Promote positive actions - both for the parish and for parish families
 - **Action** - Partner with various groups for cleanups, native garden revitalization, legislative sessions, etc.
 - **Advocacy** - Take action to promote
 - legislation through Maryland Catholic Conference regarding environmental issues
 - archdiocesan sustainability initiatives
 - action through Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

- ❖ **What we have done**
 - **Regularly educated** through information in Res Connection and the bulletin
 - Season of Creation - for the past five years we have had at least one entry per week from the beginning of September to the Feast of St. Francis (October 4) regarding ways to live more sustainably
 - Provided links with information to reduce your carbon footprint - Meatless meal planning, avoiding fast fashion, avoiding single use plastics, etc.
 - Offered cleanups on campus or at local streams
 - Partnering with Green Thumbs, Patapsco Heritage Greenway
 - Promoted the creation of native gardens at home and on the Res campus
 - Holidays - ways to be sustainable for the holidays
 - Slides in Res Connection with links to various ideas
 - Craft table at Cocoa and Caroling - alternative gift wrapping and use of Craft Paper or Cloth Tablecloths - not plastic
 - **Fall Festival** - promoted native gardening and refused single use plastic tablecloths
 - **Parish Picnic** - Tried to provide options to the single use plastic water bottles. The lack of potable water and electricity at Mary's Land Farm made that difficult. Also had a table for children to create seed bombs for native gardens.

- **Pre-Covid and Pre-Construction**
 - Made efforts to track energy efficiency on campus
 - Had minor input into sustainability with renovation project
 - Attempted to reuse pews, stained glass, etc. was not able to get very far with those efforts since we lacked heavy lifters or transportation

- ❖ **Some Positives**
 - **Sustainable practices already occurring at Res:**
 - Catholic Daughters usually use reusable tablecloths for their events
 - Fellowship uses real tablecloths for their events
 - Social Justice committees use real tablecloths or Craft Paper table covers for their events
 - RSPS stopped using single use plastic tablecloths at lunch
 - Green Thumbs at RSPS has made exceptional progress in clearing invasive species, planting a St. Kateri Garden, and receiving Bee City status! We partner with them regularly to advertise and promote their events.

- ❖ **Some Challenges**
 - **Recycling** - It is picked up twice a week, but **people do not know how to recycle** or do not bother to recycle
 - Are there small recycling bins around the campus? Do they have posters indicating what can and cannot be recycled?
 - Very few things are truly recyclable - paper, cardboard, plastic water bottles, glass and CLEAN ALUMINUM FOIL/PANS
 - Nothing with food on it is recyclable
 - Plastic bags, chip/cookie bags are not recyclable
 - All recycled objects need to be clean and dry
 - Recycling is not cost effective or sustainable for the most part

 - **Reducing** - this is the true key to sustainability
 - Reduce food waste
 - Reduce paper and single use plastic
 - Reduce temperatures in winter and increase temperatures in summer
 - Turn off lights when not in use
 - Make sure toilets/faucets are not leaking

 - **Committee Members** - this is one area where we have reduced, sadly. We began with at least eight members and are now just have a few. People have left the church, left Social Justice, and we are finding it very difficult to get new members.

