

## **St Athanasius & Sacred Heart Parishes**

### **Pastoral Council Joint Minutes - Draft**

**January 10, 2023**

The on-site/Zoom meeting was called to order at 6:22 pm. Opening Prayer by Fr.Portelli.

Members Present: Father Portelli

**SHP:** Dave Poxon, Mark Harris, Melissa Esiline, Renee Benser-Swanstra z, John Lariviere, Kathy Kazanski and John Cantalin. Absent: John Coleman

**STA:** Terri Koehler, Carleen Short, Marlene Moll, Mary Winters, Shannon Haines, Angie Benincasa (Guest). Absent: Bob Guzowski, Sue Tazzia and Terry Fulton,

**SHP:** Reviewed and approved the minutes from September 18, 2022, meeting.

**STA:** Reviewed and approved the minutes from November 30, 2022, meeting.

#### **Presentation:**

##### **Evangelization outreach effort Presentation – Angie Benincasa**

Fr. Portelli introduced Angie Benincasa, who had been an active parishioner at Immaculate Conception (Lapeer), and who is now been at STA for 1½ years.

Angie presented her experiences in Evangelization, and Outreach to both “potential” new, and “returning” Catholics, into (or back into) practice of the Faith.

Some of Angie’s discussion points focused on:

- Greeting new (and returning) people on a casual, or “grassroots” level, to connect.
- The importance of “getting to know people” on several levels to establish trust.
- Attempt to use “attraction”, rather than “promotion” to interest candidates.
- Her experience was having 6 sessions, 1 a week for 6 weeks. A lot of info is available through Formed and Augustine Institute.
- Recruitment by Word of Mouth, Websites, individual sessions, banners announcing the sessions, and provide an agenda to manage expectations.
- Modest returns on evangelization, it important not to get discouraged.

Angie also related her experience with importance of a “Welcome Ministry”, utilizing the possibility of things like “Facebook” advertising, utilizing “Parish Websites” for Outreach, and “Word-of-Mouth” campaigns.

Thank you, Angie for your time, suggestions, and sharing personal experiences.

## Updates:

- **October Counts** - Fr. Portelli shared information with the Councils regarding recent Church Attendance Counts. These counts were available on both a Parish and Diocese level. The numbers are, overall, disappointing considering the decline in attendance during COVID, and the relatively low numbers of recovery since the pandemic. One example given for SHP was the loss of 33.5% during the pandemic and only a 14.1% recovery during the recovery period of 10/21- 10/22. Also noted, most of the regions in the Saginaw Vicariate had similar results.

- **Christ Mission Appeal (CMA) – Dave**

Jill provided Dave with the latest year end results.

### SHP

Assessed - \$57,391  
Pledged - \$46,350  
% Participating - 37%

### STA

Assessed - \$20,554  
Pledged - \$11,533  
% Participating - 30%

- **STA – Terri** reported that STA now has an AED device ( Automated external defibrillator) and they are awaiting training.
- **SHP – Dave** reported the Holiday Bazar and Stew Luncheon November 18-19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 was a great success, which generated \$10,146 in profits for Charity.
- **STA & SHP Alice Training** – A Program designed to address “Security” in various situations, including while at Church (or at other locations). Dan Smith will be providing a 2-hour training session/presentation for both Parishes. Meeting times will be in both parishes bulletins for those who would like to sign up for the sessions.
- **Mission Security Camera System Review**

The current video security system in use at the SHP Mission was recently reviewed by members of both Parish Councils. The system utilizes 6 digital cameras which are constantly recording on a “fixed loop” recording system. This system can also be monitored in “real time” using the systems connection to the internet. A similar system (without internet connection is being considered for the SHP Church Building. Bids are being requested.

Next meeting – Proposed – **SHP** Tuesday, February 7, 2023, **STA** Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Closing Prayer at 8:40 pm.

Recording Minutes: John Cantalin, Dave Poxon & Terri Koehler

(SHPC & STAPC Joint Session Minutes January 10, 2023)