

Minutes of 4/29/26 Parish Council Meeting

- PPC Members in attendance: Mimi Madrid, Gail Graham, Martha Zamorano, Jeff Cardell, Jean Mense, Stephen Sheahan, Alex Miniell, Father Juan and Father Jaime.

Opened with prayer by Fr. Juan

Pastoral Council Strategic Initiatives:

- **Increasing Council Participation & Bylaws**

Three people have responded to the bulletin announcement asking for new Parish Council members. Gail recommends interviewing them and completing the applications. Two of the three applicants are under 40 years of age. Our goal is to have 14 council members over time. There was discussion over the demographics we are looking for to fill the council. We are looking for representation of every age group, Spanish and Anglo, mass times, ministries, males and females, etc . . . We decided to continue to accept applications through the end of June 2026 and have the new council members in place no later than September 1. Both Jean Mense and Jeff Cardell requested to be allowed to step down from the council as new members replaced them. They have served over 3 years on the council. Gail and Mimi will continue to work on the bulletin announcement, the application & interview process and timeline. Applicants should be notified of the timeline.

- **Supporting STA Ministries**

Jeff and Jean reported their focus is on the Sharing Session planned for September 26.

Tasks include emailing the ministry leaders for topics to discuss. In addition, we may want to work with a couple of ministry leaders on improving their presence on the STA Ministries section of the web site. We could then ask those leaders to help with the workshop in September.

They will meet with Stephen about his ideas on presenting the succession planning topic at the Sharing Session before the next meeting. Alex recommends we focus on discipleship.

The workshop outline on succession planning and leadership development that Mimi provided to Stephen is very good and we will plan to use it as the basis for a draft of a scripted workshop we could use for the next Ministry Leadership Sharing Session. We will look to develop a timeline for the draft/review/materials preparation process.

- **Encouraging & Increasing Communication**

We talked about Martha's concern about the new parishioner form and if it should include a Ministry List on the back at the next printing. It was agreed that our best way to keep the ministries information updated would be to utilize the parish web site and that will be our long term plan. Jean agreed to develop a process that we could test with a limited number of ministries to start. In the meantime, it may be beneficial to use the form handed out by Mimi at the NewComers brunch.

- **Initiating outreach to other parishes**

Father Juan identified three parishes that are similar to St. Thomas Aquinas in regards to bi-lingual masses and ministries.

- Partnering with Faith Formation

Stephen met with Abigail on April 21st to provide consulting support for her work on revising the position descriptions for the four staff roles in her department to ensure long term cost effectiveness and sustainability. A reallocation of some responsibilities between several roles may be an effective solution and our FF Support Team will be involved in this as the project moves forward.

Father Juan reported one of the Faith Formation leaders for Confirmation classes has recently resigned and his last day is May 10. The FF office is very focused on how to handle the change in the confirmation age.

A second donor has come forward to provide the balance of the funds needed for the technology that will enable the May registration process.

Pastors Update

Father Juan reported the roof contract was signed and will start on May 16. It will be paid for by the Parish operating fund. Total cost is estimated at \$250,000.

Father Juan showed the artist renderings of the Columbarium. Niches will be sold at market value and 13% of niches will be given to charity. The committee continues to meet. Ted Collins was assigned as a project manager by the Archdiocese. A permit is needed from Alpharetta and after it is received, a contractor will be chosen. A Perpetual Care Fund is required.

New Comers Brunch

Mimi reported the brunch included many new families but unfortunately no Hispanics due to an error with the invitation sending. This will be looked into and resolved before the next quarter. The families seemed truly happy to have found their home at St. Thomas Aquinas.

Mimi stated that the next meeting will be June 3.
End with Prayer led by Father Jaime.