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| P1C1T1#y1 | **Meeting Minutes**  **Pax Christi Monthly Council Meeting** | **COMMUNITY COUNCIL** |

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| **Council:** | **Community Council** | |
| **Meeting Date:** | **November 14, 2023** | |
| **Minutes Prepared By:** | **Debbie Hemann** | |
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| **Attendees:** | **Michelle Fox (Staff)** | **Fr. William Murtaugh** |
| **Phyllis Olson** | **Lekha Pauly** |
| **Dave Putrich (Chair)** | **Dan Ward** |
| **Tom Payne** | **Bill Kozik** |
| **Anita Lang** | **Liz Mach** |
| **Becky Jensen** | **Patti Christensen** |
| **Beth Neubrech** |  |
|  |  |
| **Absent:** | **Bruce Koehn** | **Marc Nosal** |
| **Guest:** | Mackenzie Kloempken | Colleen Curran |

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Dave Putrich

**Prayer:** Patti Christensen

1. **October Meeting Minutes:**

Dave Putrich

Approved

1. **NEW St. Phoebe Ministry:**

Guest Colleen Curran from the Justice Council

Highlights from the new St. Phoebe Ministry. Colleen shared some background on Saint Phoebe:

* St. Phoebe the Deaconess
  + Recognized as the first woman deacon.
* St. Phoebe’s work for the Church was an inspiration and model for both men and women to imitate. She calls her a saint – a holy person and a woman who served the Church through the office of deacon.
* Working with Lisa Amman, Deputy Director of Engagement for Discerning Deacons: <https://discerningdeacons.org/>
  + Provides materials for learning/studying and for small group discussions. 41-page document.
  + Church leaders will be deliberating when they gather this October in Rome for the General Assembly of the Synod? In Enlarge the Space of Your Tent, the Vatican’s synthesis report on the global synod, the theme of women’s full participation in the life of the church emerged across every continent as “critical and urgent.” The document devoted six paragraphs to “rethinking women’s participation,” noting in particular “the active role of women in governing structures of Church bodies, the possibility for women to preach in parish settings, and a female diaconate” as areas in need of further discernment.
* ENLARGE THE SPACE OF OUR TENT: A CELEBRATION OF ST. PHOEBE was held at Pax Christi on Wednesday, September 27th, 6:30-8:30pm. Information about this event can be found at:
  + <https://www.paxchristi.com/eventcalendardetails.aspx?vieweventguid=cb18954a-a68a-4316-a1aa-00b47ae058d1&subheadertext=ENLARGE+THE+SPACE+OF+OUR+TENT%3A+A+CELEBRATION+OF+ST.+PHOEBE>
* The first Small Group for St. Phoebe was held at Pax Christi on Wednesday, November 8th, 6:30-8:30pm. 15 people (men and women) came together to develop a schedule and plan for a St. Phoebe small group to engage with a variety of resources and to share with one another around this important conversation.
* Looking for ways to engage young people.
* Invited Fr. Steve McMichael to present his book on Mary Magdelene at a group event during Lent.
* Would like to get information put on the website.

1. **NEW Dignitas Ministry:**

Guest Mackenzie Kloempken

## The Dignitas Ministry was introduced to Pax Christi members and to the LGBTQ Community on Thursday, August 10, 7:00-8:30pm during an evening of prayer and companionship in solidarity with the LGBTQ community. The inaugural event, Resilience and Strength, was an opportunity for our Catholic community to support our queer siblings and grow together as disciples of Christ. Dignitas aims to empower LGBTQ Catholics and their allies to further Pax Christi’s commitment to being a home for all. We aim to make visible and cultivate a diverse community of LGBTQ individuals and their allies who recognize the inherent value in the intersection of our Catholic faith and queer identities. In deepening fellowship and spirituality, we strive to accompany one another in Christ to build a Church for all.

A similar event was held on Wednesday, October 25, 7:00-8:30pm

Mackenzie talked about the challenges that this ministry has experienced and will face again in the future. How the LGBTQ community struggles with making choices between their Catholic Religion and who they are as queer individuals. How do they fit in and how can they get acceptance?

There is a Dignitas event coming up on Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 pm, The LGBTQ Remembrance Vigil. We have invited the LGBTQ community to come and pray where we can remember and honor our lost LGBTQ siblings and recognize the failure of the Church, God's people, to keep LGBTQ people safe from discrimination and hurt.

An upcoming movie screening of Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+R(eligion) is being planned. Wonderfully Made is a combined fine art project and feature-length documentary that together strike at the root of anti-LGBTQ+ attitudes by exploring the challenges and aspirations of LGBTQ+ Catholics. Saint Joan Of Arc Catholic Church in Minneapolis had a screening October 16th with the Guest Speaker Mark McDermott, Executive Producer of this film and had a great turn out for this event. There is a fee for the screening, and we are hoping that will not be an issue.

How can we as a community support this ministry? How can we become allies of this Dignitas ministry? These are all very important questions.

1. **Hospitality Focus:**

Dave Putrich and all those present

1. **Reaction from council members and staff:** The overall reaction was great; you could feel the excitement in the room. The cross-collaboration was welcomed by all.
2. **Questions about what the Hospitality Focus means:**
   * **Q:** It was asked, what are the expectations of reading this book?
   * **A:** A new way of looking at Hospitality, how is the “church” hospitable to the parish?
     + **Q**: Each council has ideas of what we are supposed to do with the “**Welcome All as Christ**” **Reimaging Parish Hospitality** Book. Some clarity needs to be given out. Are we setting a goal?
   * **A**: Further discussion will need to be had
3. **January Meeting – Joint Session:** Deacon Charles Bobertz will be here to talk to us about this book. A student of his at St. John’s University wrote this book. We will all gather as we did in September. The seating will be mixed up so council members will be sitting with other council members. This technic makes for greater small group discussions.
4. **Articles for Pax Christi News Magazine:** Starting in the January 2024 issue of the magazine we are asking for two articles about the separate councils to be written by Council Leaders. For January Dave Putrich and Michelle Fox will be responsible for the first articles. A schedule of when each council will take their turn will be published very soon. Deadline for the January Magazine is Friday, November 1st.
5. **Revitalize Mass attendance:**

Dave Putrich and Michelle Fox

History from 2011:

Background: According to the demographic analysis done a year ago, attendance at Mass has declined every year since 2011. So have parish registrations and participation in the sacraments. It is important to note, too, that the number of Catholics living within the parish boundaries has declined as well.

Our Mass attendance is still low, looking back to 2011, and Fr Bill has challenged the CC to address this issue. Some ideas have been offered:

* + - * Reinstitute the phone bank that the Worship Council used for several years, calling groups of parishioners to encourage attendance.
        + Reinstitute the 'Meal with the Pastor’ for new members (each quarter).
        + Have the front desk person trained to answer FAQs at weekend Masses.
        + Reinstitute the presider recognizing new members and visitors at weekend Masses. (When my wife and I were checking out Pax, and after we joined, Fr Bill would do that at Mass).

Suggestions:

**Someone Has to be in Charge of Welcoming!**

What can we do to Revitalize Mass Attendance?

* More Greeters / more energy
* Mentorship – Almost a “Buddy” set up, someone who can assist the new members/families to navigate what Pax Christi offers.
* Stronger Presence at the Front Desk – Out going leader type personalities to show people our parish and all the wonderful things we offer.
* New/Updated Welcome Packets – Needs more gusto! A more welcoming presentation of the generic Welcome Packets we have now.
  + Think like the Welcoming Committee when you move into a new home.
  + What do other churches use?
* Pizza or Pasta with the Padre: Dinner for new members, and families with the Priest
  + Was previously done at Pax.
  + Looking at starting up in 2024

1. **Michelle’s Thoughts:**
   * Communications Director Position has been filled.
   * Natalie Jacobwith starts on Monday, November 27th.
     + She brings experience in journalism and marketing to her role. Local Eden Prairie and University of Minnesota Graduate
   * Still have Part-time Care and Support Coordinator position open
   * Still searching for Part-time Hospitality Coordinator
     + Contact us in the office if you know anyone who might be interested in these positions.

# Moved to adjourn at 6:20 pm to get to prayer.

# Next Meeting: December 12, 2023

# Prayer for December 12th: Dan Ward