

Pastoral Council Minutes
October 13, 2020

Absent Members: Monsignor Daniel Stack

Question of the week: How do you experience the abundant gifts of God in your own life?

In such a horrible year, we need to recognize our blessings, and how we can proceed continuing our every day lives. One of our blessings is to be able to have Mass in person, safely, every Sunday.

Our Church Today

Indoor Mass: The council agrees that the indoor Masses have been handled extremely well by staff and hospitality ministers. The first weekend of October was raining, and the Masses were all moved inside, however everyone adapted quickly and Parishioners listened to staff and hospitality ministers. Nancy mentioned that waiting until your full party is present is crucial, so that the ushers know where to sit you for everyone to sit together and with enough social distancing in between them.

Outdoor Mass: A few council members are worried about the cold weather coming and the possible increase in virus cases around the country. PLT has been working on finding a solution this problem and will have a new schedule in weeks to come.

Pastor's Update: Monsignor Dan Stack

Monsignor Stack was absent from this meeting, however, staff and PLT members helped update the council on things happening at the church. The major topic was the recent staff changes made to our Faith Formation department. Although 3 staff members are leaving at the end of October, Monsignor Stack and Ricardo Luzondo will make sure the GIFT Program continues.

Finance Update: Patti Dismukes

Patti mentioned that there were a few larger donations in the last month, however they are not sustainable long term. The church had to pay a significant amount of money to the Archdiocese of Atlanta in September and the finance council is doing everything they can to make sure we are saving money where we can, as well as making sure we do not burn through our savings.

Discipleship & Stewardship Update: Ricardo Luzondo

With the departure of 3 Faith Formation staff members, Ricardo will be working on the GIFT program with the remainder of the staff in that department. He mentioned that the first week of GIFT went great, with a few minor technical glitches. However, he hopes those will be figured out soon.

Strategic Plan Sub-Committee: Everyone

For the most part, people agreed that the strategic plan is still a viable document. We need to celebrate the accomplishments on this plan that we have already made, and how many of those we made within the last 6 months. The outcome of the strategic plan will be a lot different than what we expected it to be. Everything that we have been doing is very intentional and in line with the feedback that we collected years ago.

Survey: Nancy Murphy & Lia Armistead

Creating a survey for our parishioners to give us feedback was mentioned in the last PC Meeting. However, it was discussed at the PLT meeting that a survey may not be the best idea. Instead, the group suggested to continue the calling campaign that Ricardo and his team have already been doing. To do this, the council decided that have a script was necessary so that the person calling knows exactly what to ask and what type of information they are looking for. This is a great way to receive feedback, to possibly get more offertory donations, and to be personal with out Parishioners and show that we care. It was suggested that we hear from the following small faith communities:

- Young Adult Group
- Choirs
- Lectors
- Faith Formation
 - This is the best way to get in touch with the Spanish community
- ALPHA

It was also suggested that we talk to parishioners in person on Sundays to get feedback and to introduce ourselves as Pastoral Council members. We want to know what keeps people coming to mass and what makes them feel safe at Mass.

Action Items: Everyone

- **All Members:** Communicate with your commissions:
 - Questions to ask your commission leaders: How are you? How is your ministry doing amidst the current limitations of access to the church building? Are you connected to STA via parish app, online masses, in-person masses? How can we help you re-imagine your ministry meeting model? Are members of your ministry aware of our church's financial situation? Do you know anyone who needs help accessing online giving?
- **All Members:** New council members – Need suggestions by the end of October
 - 4 spots are open
- **All Members:** Send thank you letter to staff
- **All Members:** Send e-mail to Nancy about the accomplishments we need to add to the strategic plan summary

- **All Members:** Think about ways to get feedback from parishioners about what we have been doing