

## **Pastoral Council Minutes**

**August 11, 2020**

**Absent Members:** Jorge Lopez, Mimi Madrid

**Question of the week:** God meets us in the most unexpected places. Who has been an example for me, showing courage to meet God wherever God chooses to be revealed?

Members shared experiences with individuals who remind us of God's presence, who inspire us to have courage in our faith, and who challenge us to exercise and share our faith.

### **Pastor's Update: Monsignor Dan Stack**

- Alpharetta Clergy Manifesto – The council was asked what they think about this manifesto, which was sent to each member prior to the meeting. Monsignor asked if he should sign this manifesto, which discusses Black Lives Matter and the call to action to stop racism, a sin in the Catholic Church. The Alpharetta Clergy group is made up of religious leaders in the surrounding area. Some council members were concerned with how this manifesto is worded, in fear that it could cause questions and negative reactions from some of our parishioners. It was suggested to Monsignor to find out what all is involved with this manifesto and what other organizations we would be signing on to working with. A few members believed that we need to start the conversation at our Parish first, before signing this manifesto. We need to have those uncomfortable conversations within our personal community, and then bring it to the surrounding communities. It is firmly agreed that we do have to do something about racism; however, where to start is what is in question. Some revisions were offered to the Pastor via email. Although there was discussion about where to start and how to start, the council was in full agreement that they would be okay with whatever Monsignor decides to do.
- Mass Schedule – The current in-person Mass schedule is as follows:
  - Sunday 9:00 a.m. – English
  - Sunday 11:00 a.m. – Spanish
  - Sunday 7:00 p.m. – English
  - Wednesday Senior Mass 12:00 p.m. – English
  - Thursday 7:00 p.m. – Spanish

Weekday masses and weekend masses continue to be offered online. Staff and council have suggested that a Saturday Mass be added as well to accommodate to our parishioners' needs. Monsignor and the rest of the Pastoral Leadership Team does not want to switch up the Mass schedule very much to keep a sense of normalcy, but all are open to adding a Saturday evening Mass. There are questions about going inside; however, Monsignor believes that continuing to

keep Mass outdoors allows us to have much more attendance than we would if we were inside. Mass indoors would be limited to 150 people max and would require a reservation system. Staying outdoors allows people to get as close to the altar as they feel comfortable, and even allows people to stay in their car if they feel most comfortable there. Going inside means that we would need more cleaning, which would cost more money.

#### **Finance Update: Patti Dismukes/Nancy Murphy**

We are in a state of financial crisis. A financial summary was sent out in STA Today and is in the bulletin and on the website discussing our finances at the end of the fiscal year, which ended June 30. Patti Dismukes, Finance Council Chair, created a video that discussed the finance situation at STA and how COVID-19 has drastically changed the church's income over the last 6 months. The video will be sent out in STA Today and will be available on all platforms in the upcoming week. Ricardo is creating a similar video in Spanish. Nancy wanted to be clear that we never began a capital campaign. It was discussed at the beginning of this year, but COVID-19 put discussions of developing a capital campaign on hold.

Nancy would like to create a sub-committee to the Strategic Plan, noting recommendations that we are already accomplishing and targeting the next set of recommendations while spending little to no money.

#### **Commissions: Everyone**

ALPHA just completed a program with the Archdiocese of Atlanta and St. Ann's and will continue their program virtually.

#### **Action Items: Everyone**

- **All Members:** Social media awareness – if you watch or see something on our social media, like it, share it, comment on it.
- **All Members:** Continue to reach out to your ministry leaders and make sure their information is up to date. We want to be able to get information out to people as fast as possible, as things are going to start changing quickly
- **All Members:** Verbally encourage others to continue their offertory in the platform that serves them best