

Pastoral Council Minutes
June 9, 2020

Absent Members: Sarah Kovacs, Ricardo Luzondo, Aileen Nicolas (leaving early)

Question of the Week: The Trinity is perfect example of communal love. In this time of social distancing, how are we called to build relationships of love, justice, and peace?

The council discussed what Jesus taught us in terms of love, justice, and peace. He said we should love one another as he loved us and to work toward peace on the world. He taught us to be the salt, to seasoning the world with our faith. To do this now, with social distancing, the short answer is virtually and intentionally. We can communicate through technology every day, and for the most part, this is what most people are because of COVID-19. Because of the racial injustice going on in our country right now, a lot of people are asking how they can help. Most ways to help is electronically and spreading the word while seasoning the world. We also need to be intentional about our communications, calling people that are not in your immediate household and setting time aside for important discussions.

Pastor's Update: Monsignor Dan Stack

The Alpharetta Clergy came together on Tuesday, June 9, to discuss ways they and each of their parishes can help with the current racial situation going on in the world. They are looking into more encounters that will bring the churches together to help. Their main hope in these meetings are to answer the question "what can we as clergy do to model different behavior?" Nancy Murphy suggested that we create a video compilation of each of the Alpharetta Clergy members discussing the purpose of these meetings and their plans on helping the community. Stephen Sheahan suggest extending this video out to the choirs of each parish.

The first communion Masses, which took place on June 6, went very well, mostly because of the specific protocol put in place and the number of volunteers. There was a limit of 150 people invited to the celebrations– the English first communion had about 100 and the Spanish had almost 150. The concern going forward is about having plentiful volunteers for masses to come. Nancy hopes that the council can volunteer. A suggestion was made to have signs about needing volunteers at the outdoor masses. However, the council believes that once people see others volunteering, they will feel encouraged to volunteer as well.

Monsignor Stack suggests that we need to continue online masses for those that are not comfortable coming into the church and gathering with many people. We must honor everyone's comfort levels. We need to always be there, as we have formed a sense of community online, not only with our parishioners, but with people all over, including some from other countries.

Stephen Sheahan had a conversation with 3 different people about the churches process on opening its doors back to the community. Out of the three, one person was frustrated and the

other two were thankful for how slow STA is taking the opening. There is a mix of ideas and thoughts and we will not please everyone. We do not know how it is going to look until it happens.

Commissions update: Everyone

Liturgy & Worship:

- Maureen Rutherford (hospitality ministry) sent a survey to the ushers about their comfortability in coming back. Over 60% are uncomfortable. Out of all the ushers, there are online 10 that are under the age of 65. Maureen wants to train all the upcoming volunteers at one time but needs a list that are willing to volunteer.

Education:

- The education commission has a few plans for faith formation, but they are waiting on a few more details. It was suggested for them to touch base with Ricardo about joining the weekly faith formation meetings with the staff and to send out the faith formation survey again closer to July. This gives people more of an idea about what is happening and going on with COVID-19, as things are developing and changing weekly.

Community Outreach:

- The Knights have been meeting for quite some time and have continued to plan as if things are going to open soon. There has not been any major changed to the Knights except for physically meeting in person.
- The Cub Scouts met to do an award ceremony and occasionally do a zoom call. They are planning to do a summer program where they will come together for a hike.

Small Faith Communities & Alpha:

- SFC has created brochures to give to Alpha members and suggested that someone can be available to talk to Alpha members as their series comes to an end.
- SFC have had more attendance on zoom than they have had in person.
- STA Alpha has two tables at the online Alpha that is formed with a few other churches. They have 18 participants, which is more than they have when they meet in person.

Administration:

- Alex has a pending meeting with Ricardo regarding the update of parishioner's information

Finance Update: Patti Dismukes

Overall, the Finance Council is watching all expenses and spending very closely. Our offertory is not what is needs to be, but hopefully it will be at some point. Our job is to be good stewards and spend our money wisely. Patti expects that as offertory goes up, so will expenses. Expenses per month are about \$125,000, but offertory is only about \$70,000, including \$18,000 in online giving. Because of this, savings has been used every month since March. The Finance Council is challenged to make sure they are doing the right thing and making the right spending choices. AAA is down, but that goes for most churches in the diocese due to COVID-19.

Action Items: Everyone

- **Lia Armistead:** Work on Audio for Masses
- **Lia Armistead:** Push out social media posts about offertory
- **Education Commission:** Touch base with Ricardo about joining Faith Formation meetings
- **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:** Create a short video discussing how you are living your faith at home and what practices you are doing to deepen your faith. Please send to Lia
- **All Members:** Write two personal letters to the staff. Nancy will get a staff list
- **All Members:** Get feedback from parishioners about everything we have been doing
- **All Members:** Verbally encourage others to continue their offertory in the platform that serves them best
- **All Members:** Encourage people to download the app
- **All Members:** Think about how you can help with masses and how you can encourage others to help. E-mail Nancy if you are willing to serve.