

## **Pastoral Council Minutes**

**September 8, 2020**

**Absent Members:** Rebecca Juneau, Sarah Kovacs, Aileen Nicolas, Rico Regnier, Jorge Lopez

**Question of the week:** What relationship in my life could be healed or strengthened through forgiveness?

The council had a quick discussion about political reconciliation. As the election is just around the corner, some members believe that whatever happens, we are in desperate need of healing in our country. We must be willing and able to recognize that our thinking is not the only way of thinking, in any situation. We must think beyond the frustration of people not understanding our beliefs or choices and seeing those people make choices that we believe to be poor choices.

### **Our Church Today**

As we begin to plan for moving all masses indoors as fall and winter weather approaches, what current practices must be maintained?

- Offer personal guidance (escorted in, escorted out, escorted to communion) – people feel comfortable and cared for when they are escorted in and out
- Continue safety protocols already in place and explain/demonstrate via videos to parish membership
- Continue welcoming upon entrance into the parking lot and inside the church
- Be cautious that just because we are going back indoors, does not mean we go back to the way we were before
- Continue online Masses, radio broadcasts
- Have someone standing by offertory stations
- Over communicate what to expect
- Plan for ways to collect feedback from community
- Plan for reservation system to attend mass but plan for overflow to avoid turning anyone away
- Consider offering communion services for those who do not feel comfortable coming inside to mass

Other than safety considerations as recommended by the CDC, our Archdiocese, the Health Department, and our local governments, what considerations should drive our plans?

- Colder months could increase COVID numbers
- Some people are not comfortable going indoors yet. We need to accommodate everyone's comfortability and not turn anyone away.
- Supervision (escorted in, escorted out, escorted to communion) – people feel comfortable and cared for when they are escorted in and out

What goals might we target from our strategic plan in the coming months?

- Evangelization with family
- Whole family programs
- Strategic plan subcommittee working on summary of progress to date and looking for gaps in current plan

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

Monsignor discussed the Faith Formation department and what their new program entails. He mentioned that they are struggling to come up with workable models considering the pandemic. They have encountered a lot of uncertainty with parents, as some are unsure if they want to enroll this year. Monsignor wants to encourage people to enroll regardless if they think they are going to show up or not. This makes sure that the department has all the necessary supplies that they will need.

Monsignor and a team of people have been calling parishioners who have made significant offertories in the past and asked them to consider increasing their offertory by 10%. So far, it has worked, and we have seen that a lot of people have sent in significant one-time contributions.

### **Finance Update: Patti Dismukes**

Offertory has continued to look more normal in the last few weeks. Our big concern right now is Faith Formation, as it will be significantly less revenue than the past few years. The Finance Council is also concerned about preschool. Even though some very generous contributions have come in, we still forecast a deficit of approximately \$200,000.

Changes in AAA: We are about \$3,000 away from meeting our AAA goal. Usually we will have big contributions made toward the end of the year. This calendar year, as normal, everything that goes over our goal, will come back to the Parish. Next year if anything is paid over our goal, we will only get 25% and the rest will go into an endowment.

### **Discipleship & Stewardship Update: Ricardo Luzondo**

Faith formation has postponed the start of their program from September 20 to October 4. This gives people a chance to register. The price will not increase at any stage, as we do not want to discourage anyone from signing up.

We need to understand that kids are virtual Monday – Friday, for the most part. We need to offer something else besides virtual to encourage people to sign up for Life Teen. We need to create a draw and some excitement.

Sacraments: How have expectations toward sacraments changed, if at all?

Requirements for Faith Formation are the same. The GIFT program is validated as a year for first communion and confirmation children. Confirmation is still going to take place in November and the Archbishop will be here for two Masses.

RCIA begins Thursday, September 10, outside under the tents. There are 10 participants in English, 10 adults in Spanish and 12 teenagers in Spanish.

Car Wash: A young adult group called Unidos con Jesús is offering a carwash where all the proceeds will go to STA. The goal is to raise \$5,000 in two days. Ricardo would like staff, Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and clergy to volunteer for 1 hour at the car wash. The event is being held on September 19 & 20, from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### **Strategic Plan Sub-Committee: Nancy Murphy, Steven Sheahan**

How are we doing? – We have done spectacular since COVID started. COVID has pushed us to do things that we kept putting off. The sub-committee divided everything in to two lists - things that we have done and things that we need to do. They have prioritized things that do not require money. Just because we are in the pandemic does not mean that we cant move forward.

### **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:** Send nominations for new members to Nancy before next meeting. We believe we will have 4 elected vacancies to fill.
- **All Members:** Send thank you letters to staff if you have not done so! PLEASE call or email and check in to see that your staff member received this recognition.
- **All Members:** Sign up for car wash. **Ricardo** to send schedule for sign up.
- **All Members / Lia Armistead:** Think about ways to get feedback from parishioners about what we have been doing