

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 17, 2020**

Those present: Fr. Grant Gerlach, Dan DeFries, Kay Birkholt, Julie Hill, John Lane, & Josh Schuh

Those absent: Mary Kay Thompson, Joan Roe (recording secretary)

The opening prayer was led by Fr. Gerlach

**Last meeting's minutes:** The minutes from our July meeting were not available. Father will ask Joan to send them by email and asked the Council to review, note any changes and vote to approve or not approve electronically.

**Old Business**

1. Items noted on the agenda as “on hold” include: Revising SAP PPC Constitution, Time and Talent Share Fair, Mini Retreat and CSS Opportunities continue to be on hold but will be left on our agenda for discussion in the future when COVID restrictions have been changed.
2. Youth Program Update - Kay advised that following the research on materials and other programs by Mary Kay and Josh for the SAP Youth Program, a survey was developed to get input and feedback from the parents on their priorities for youth education and formation. Replies to the survey have been light. It was included with the Safe Environment email so may have been missed by parents. Kay will work with Joan to send the survey request again and see if we can get additional participation.
3. OCP Grant Update - Fr. Gerlach read a letter from OCP regarding our grant application for equipment to live stream Mass at our three parishes. Our application was denied. We are eligible to apply for a grant in 2021 with OCP.

**New Business**

1. Bishop Muhich Visit – The Bishop has been visiting parishes throughout the Diocese. He will be visiting and conducting Mass in Hot Springs and Edgemont on Sunday, November 1. Discussion was held on what we can do to engage with the Bishop especially given the COVID restrictions. Some ideas include: host something at a local park or rectory yard (weather could be a factor); doing something in the church hall in a reception style with light snacks from 12:00 – 2:00 so people are not all attending at the same time; consider presenting some history about the parish and local community. Please share any thoughts or ideas with Fr. Gerlach.
2. COVID 19/Mass Update – Bishop Muhich met with his college of consultors. There are no major changes to the current guidance on COVID.
3. Financial Update – SAP Finance Council met in July. We published our Actuals in the August bulletin. The budget for 2020-21 fiscal year has been reduced and while we are in good operating shape, the Council continues to keep a close eye on finances.
4. Western SD Catholic Foundation Grant – Grant applications are being accepted by the WSDCF with the deadline for submission being October 13. It was agreed that we would submit an application for the technology to live stream Mass for the three parishes. Josh will review the information used to submit the OCP Grant and determine if any changes need to be made for this grant submission.

5. PPC Nominations – Discussion was held on how to conduct our PPC nominations process given the limited number of parishioners allowed at Sunday Mass where nominations are typically submitted. It was agreed that we would request nominations electronically utilizing Survey Monkey and that we would reach out to parishioners that do not have email and invite them to submit names by phone or by dropping off nominations at the office. Historically, we have had a large number of nominations so given the challenges with the nomination process this year, it was agreed that we would evaluate after the nominations are received to determine if we can proceed with an election for PPC vacancies or if we may need to consider moving the election to the Fall of 2021.
6. March for Life 2021 – Kay advised that the Rapid City Diocese has a current time line for the annual March for Life trip of January 26-31 and the estimate cost is \$550 per person. This is a very preliminary schedule given the COVID pandemic. Hot Springs Area Right to Life is offering to cover half of the tuition for any youth (high school/college) that might be interested in participating.
7. Thanksgiving Food Drive – The Hot Springs food pantry will be conducting a Thanksgiving-focused food drive. Kay will provide a flyer to enable parishioners to participate in the drive.
8. Christmas Schedule – Christmas will be very different this year given current COVID restrictions not only at the church but for our parishioners in the nursing home, Pine Hills and State Home. Discussion was held on outreach ideas for those parishioners as well as the parish community. Ideas include putting up a nativity scene outside the church (in addition to our inside decorations). Father suggested perhaps using the roof above the tabernacle for the display. Another idea was to send a Christmas postcard to all parish members. Ideas for the postcard include snapshots of the St. Anthony sign with Father Gerlach next to it; a message that we “miss you” and are “always praying for you,” and a nativity scene. Please reach out to Father or Kay with any additional ideas for Christmas outreach. Separately, the SAP youth group usually decorates trees for the State Home residents. Kay will reach out to see if there is a way we can do the trees again this year.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19 at 6:15pm.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer by Fr. Gerlach.

*Respectfully submitted – Kay Birkholt*