

Parish Council Meeting

October 27, 2020

The parish council met 6 PM utilizing Zoom. Those participating were Fr. Connolly, Ben Bly, Barb Brown, Bob Cardoni, Bitrus Gwamna, Stan Holtkamp Marcia Kentner, Tim Lohmann, Mary Ann Messer, Dr. Kent Metcalf, Susan Smith, Dr. Joe Tansey, Kelley Tansey.

Opening prayer by Ben Bly

Minutes from September meeting were approved as printed.

Pastoral Comments: Father asked the council should the bluebooks be mailed to parishioners since COVID restrictions will not lend itself to distribution at masses. Mary Ann moved the books be mailed with a second by Tim Lohmann. No further discussion and all members present agreed. Motion carried. Planning for Christmas Mass celebrations will need some thought. Once mass times are determined RSVP by attendees would help to assist in seating effectively of course lack of a reservation would not mean turning anyone away.

Susan and Joe on liturgy committee will be meeting with Father and Carmen to iron out mass times, allow for social distancing, sanitizing & preparing the pews. Council approved motion that liturgy committee decisions will not need further review by council. A letter will accompany blue books outlining plans for Christmas masses, seating, and social distancing.

Advent/Christmas postcards

Father stated the Bishop will allow a Cantor at the Christmas masses. Christmas mass times will also need to allow sanitizing time in between scheduled masses.

Father stated adequate volunteers for ministries during the mass and cleaning/sanitizing for Saturday evening in particular. Discussion regarding the necessity of waiting 60-90 minutes before cleaning. Dr. Tansey and Metcalf agreed that this waiting time is not practiced in physician offices and therefore cleaning after the Saturday and Sunday masses can begin following these masses.

Old Business:

Nourish program will have an online workshop, Sunday November 15, 2-4 pm. Nourish is a resource for all caregivers.

Parish council elections still on hold as difficult to get candidates and have election while so many are not attending masses due to COVID. Any parishioner may attend parish council but would not be able to vote. Parishioners interested need only to request the link from the parish office.

Mass attendance currently is highest at 11 AM. This past weekend required using the gathering space for seating.

Offerings are done by automatic payment and mailing in. Loose cash offerings are down as less people attending mass that use this method of contribution.

The Public Rosary October 10 organized by Elisa Lopez had 15-25 in attendance. Plans to continue these rosaries monthly beginning next May being planned.

Discussion of the Emmaus program is placed on November agenda. This is a turnkey program for of small faith gatherings of 4-8 people. This is a follow-up to the Vision 2020 program. More information available at <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/emmaus>.

Memorial committee would like to discuss direction for restricted and unrestricted gifts donations as relates to the memorial committee recommendations. This is an area of Parish Planning.

Faith Formation Report:

Kelley stated at the end of the first month with 27 families registered for Family faith Formation (9 of those preparing for Reconciliation/First Communion.

Youth Ministry includes 16 students (8 ninth graders and 8 tenth graders)

Building and Grounds/Finance Council:

Since the September parish council meeting, Mike Vens from Finance reported on foundation settling and resulting cracks in the walls of the rectory. A bid was distributed to parish council for tuckpointing and chimney repair of \$13,000. This bidder stated tuckpointing should follow foundation settling which then led to a bid for the foundation of nearly \$50,000. Gary Crawford is looking into another bid from Washington, IA regarding the foundation.

Much discussion indicated further review was desired before making a decision on these rectory improvements. The rectory is not handicap accessible which should be considered as well. Further discussion of costs of improving/maintaining rectory be referred to Building and Grounds and explore other options such as building or finding a more suitable residence in view of the future composition of St. Alphonsus. Age groups are trending toward the majority of retired parishioners etc. Are diocesan plans for priest assignments still include a resident priest St. Alphonsus in the next decade? Current members of Building and Grounds (Russell Hill, Ron Kaska, Tony Fedler, RJ Dodson, Allan Woline and Bob Cardoni present members). Council requested to involve Leo Hunting and Ken Reschly for input as they have done much over the years for our parish facilities.

Communal Penance:

During the Advent season because of social distancing, there may be a virtual penitential service and then making appointments or reservation for individual confessions.

Submitted by Kelley Tansey and Mary Ann Messer