

July 2020 Pastoral Council Meeting Summary

Financial Report: All things considered, the most recent month was a good one for collections. It was not quite “normal” but better than expected. It was helped by a generous \$75,000 gift from a non-parishioner whose children and grandchildren attend here. The church was able to make its school subsidy payment. Sixty per cent of it went to families and 40 per cent went into the tuition assistance program to help those financially impacted by COVID-19.

Education and Formation Commission: Head of School Diane Wolfe says a plan is in place for returning to school in mid-August if Covid cases continue to decrease. The strategy for returning is to offer on-site learning. The school isn’t adequately staffed to offer on-site and distance learning at the same time. All precautions will be taken to ensure the health and safety of the children. Electrostatic foggers will be used for sanitation. Plexiglass dividers will be used in classes with tables. Hand sanitizers will be outside each classroom. Face shields have been ordered for faculty and staff.

Parish Life Commission: The planning for an event to both welcome Father Joseph de Orbegozo and bid farewell to Father Jeff Hebert has been made problematic to schedule by the corona virus. The event may have to take place later than anticipated, but Father Jeff won’t be far away for whenever it’s held.

Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission: At the most recent Missions Committee meeting it was noted that all meetings, projects, and activities should comply with the COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions issued May 8 until further notice. Along those lines, the Committee’s Missions for Transitions efforts are on hold. The Committee may also have some tough budget decisions to make due to reduced overall parish giving during the pandemic. The Men of Faith Appalachia Mission Trip, the Delta Disciples Mission Trip, and the “Lettuce Grow” Family Mission Trip were all canceled due to COVID-19. It’s hoped that all can be rescheduled in 2021. There’s a 50/50 chance the St. Peter’s Episcopal Guatemala Mission will occur in 2021. A sewer “snake machine” was purchased to donate to an orphanage there. The Committee is seeking a low-cost way to ship it to Guatemala.

Old Business: Mass attendance is up a little with the COVID-19 guidelines. There were 150 parishioners at one recent service. We haven’t hit 25% capacity yet, but most Masses have been averaging around 100. There were 40-60 per service in the beginning. The precautions seem to be working. A question was raised in the meeting about why the audio-visual screens weren’t being used. One reason is that the booth operators are concentrating on live streaming the Masses. The other is that it’s an effort to reduce volume responses from parishioners to further control the chance of spreading droplets. There was one reported positive case of the virus within the parish. The infected person attended Mass on May 31 and tested positive 10 days later. A representative from the CDC spoke with Father Tony and is comfortable everything surrounding the matter was handled appropriately.

Pastor’s Report: Father Tony said Father Joseph de Orbegozo visited here July 2nd. He concelebrated Mass with Father Tony and is enthused and ready to assume his new duties at St. Joseph. Even though Father Jeff will be leaving, he envisions coming back periodically for some weddings and baptisms.