

THE PARISH OF ST. EUGENE PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – November 11, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE: Fr. Pat Cahill, Sabine Dieringer, Lynn Harvey Heth, Ashley Torres, Karen Bradley, Eric Jedd, Rick Lober, Deliz Romero,

EXCUSED: Deacon Mike, Raoul Cervantes, Pat Irmes, Nancy Maldonado, Carl Dobson

GUESTS: Sue Koesters, Kathy & Steve Thomas, Jana

- Opening prayer said by Sabine. The September minutes were approved
- Mass recommendations: Fr. Pat reports that everything is going great so far. We had a good turnout at 11:30 am bilingual Mass. He saw a significant increase in offertory just by adding one Mass. Fr. Doug is back after 3 months and will be a huge help moving forward. Fr. Pat said attendance is around 450-500 for all Masses. We will need to schedule another (3rd) Eucharistic minister for the back section. Cry room is open now and we could safely put 3 families in there. We reviewed the Mass schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas day. Ashley suggested a sign-up for Mass but that would be too difficult for visitors. Rick suggested bringing in music that has already been performed by large choirs and using them in the liturgy. Fr. Pat said he'll review that idea with Rachel. Votive candles can be lit.
- Rectory: Fr. Pat reports he is excited about the move although is not ready quite yet; hopefully by Christmas he'll be moved in. Around \$15K in donations have been made to offset moving expenses. He is currently looking at new furniture. Fr. Pat will donate old items to parishioners. We have the green light from the diocese to sell the Lakeshore house. 33 Creekside Way is the new address for the rectory.
- School construction: We're on track for the new wing to be complete by April/May. The architect is really happy with the way it's going. Bathrooms and drainage issues are all resolved and the roof is complete. The final campaign phase will begin soon along with financing from the diocese including taking out a bridge loan to finish payments.
- To Mass or Not to Mass: This is a Liturgy Commission discussion to be held on November 16th, at 7:00pm. This will cover how the pandemic has redefined the way we attend Mass. One of the blessings of live streaming, folks can attend a funeral that live far away. There is an issue of people not receiving communion in 7+ months. Fr. Pat reported there are a few people streaming from the parking lot not quite ready to be in a building with a lot of people. Weekend Masses receive around 700 hits a weekend for virtual Mass. A question was made about tithes - Fr. reported we are at 92% with offertories missing Easter's losing around \$22K. Second collections are down.
- Face-to-Face VIRTUS training: Lynn reported that the diocese approved this with rules in place. You can sign up to attend an in-person class but no sign ups yet. It will be held the 4th Monday of each month. Online training is always available. Once you get through certification, you have to keep up with the bulletins sent out. All Council members should be certified and the rest of the parish should as well.
- Security Camera Investment: Costs approximately \$14K. The cameras record up to a week and then record over. All recordings are hooked up to Mechelle's computer.
- Hiring PT Maintenance person: Fr. Pat said we can't afford that at this time. Lynn reported that we don't really need one. Salvador has been doing an amazing job.

- Handbook: Lynn says it's coming along highlighting each ministry. This week was ACS. Any ministry that is no longer around, we will delete.
- Kathy & Steve Thomas: Care of Creation - They brought up three main points. (1): Idea of how we – the church – can come up with practical means to help us fulfill any moral obligation to be good stewards of the earth. Even better, let's come up with things that are semi-automatic. (2): We want to try and improve our recycling. Part 1, already approved, is to build a three-part station for landfill, paper and bottles/cans on wheels. People are over recycling, so signs will show what can or can't be recycled. Connie and Salvador met and thought we don't have enough recycling bins now. (3): Paper products from recycled paper. Maybe 15M trees get cut down a year to make TP. Steve suggested we look at reliable companies that make these products at a price that we can afford. Rick asked for a list of things that can't be recycled and suggested we put a copy of the poster that lists these items in the bulletin. Greenworks does 4-5 seminars on what or they will not accept as recycling.
- Steve – When we can get a geothermal quote – around \$15K – a test well will be made outside of Fr. Pat's office. The electricity bill will be significantly less. It's about caring for our planet and setting examples to other churches and synagogues. It's amazing how much attention St. Eugene has received for going solar.
- Rick – Hospitality Ministry capacity Issues – reported that training is needed again after 4-5 months adding that Communion has become more complicated. Fr. Pat suggested hospitality training with the holidays coming up.
 - CYPC - Rick has stepped up to an advisory role.
- Latino Events: Various parishioners are still taking food every week to 60-100 families. The 5th Encounter is meeting virtually and we keep working with that. First goal is to accompany the young people, families and vocations. On Dec 6th will be a day of different conferences discussing all Advent activities to be presented by Fr. Julio. There are 100 ministers in the Vicariate. Dec. 12th is the feast day of our Lady of Guadalupe. Aztec dancers will be at 11:30 am Mass. There will be a special visitor on Dec. 11th. Fr. Frank might do a prayer vigil on the 12th. There may be a fundraiser for the parish. On Dec. 5th from 9:00-11:15 am we will split up the first reconciliation students and two prayer services.
- Sue Koesters: There will be Peace and Justice ministry fair trade items that people can order from a bulletin site including coffee, tea, chocolate, olive oil to be picked up outside of church.
- Sabine – Advent Booklets – reported that Robin Mallernee solicited input for an Advent booklet to include poems, personal stories, meaningful Advent explanations, etc. Thus far 16 were received and Sabine hoped some Hispanic stories would be added. They are currently being translated to be placed eventually online.
 - Sabine also reported that she wanted to begin recreating the pictorial directory this January (later email from Fr. Pat suggested we wait until Fall 2021).
- Meeting was adjourned and the closing Prayer was said at 7:10pm.