

**THE PARISH OF ST. EUGENE PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES – March 3rd, 2021**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Fr. Pat Cahill, Deacon Mike Zboyovski, Sabine Dieringer, Lynn Harvey Heth, Ashley Torres, Rick Lober, Eric Jedd, Mechelle Kobar

**EXCUSED:** Raul Cervantes, Nancy Maldonado, Deliz Romero, Bill Maloney, Karen Bradley

**GUESTS:**

---

- Meeting took place via Zoom. Opening prayer said at 6:24 pm by Fr. Pat.
- February minutes approved.
- Plaza Cement Issues and renovation: Over the past 2.5 years, Fr. Pat has been able save \$200k with gifts and with a church member's will. In 2018, the parish got the go ahead to begin the renovation project. It will cost roughly \$300k. Fr. Pat asks if parish council will make a motion to raise \$175k. A lot of landscaping will have to be done which wasn't accounted for. We have a builder that can schedule us for July. Thanks to Bill Maloney, he will do patch up work on the bad crumbly parts of the concrete. Fr. Pat asks if we are we ready to present this to the parish and ask for an additional \$150-175K. Lynn questions if we think that \$350-375k is a realistic number and if there is an opportunity to sell memory blocks or bricks (Memory lane). Fr. Pat says it is not in the groundwork due to moisture. However, a tree of life could work if that would inspire folks. Deacon Mike asks about an artist rendition. Fr. Pat says we have color prints from J. Mathews that designed one. Rick Lober makes a motion to move forward on raising the \$175K for the labyrinth. All parish council members are in favor. Realistically by September/October, the renovation will be done. Bill questions if we have enough money raised before we start. Fr. Pat reports we have \$325K in savings, and that's enough to go ahead and begin.
- Website Changes: Fr. Pat has asked some folks who've been helping with liturgical matters to assist in website changes. If there are any specific recommendations, pass it on to Fr. Pat. A lot information has been cleaned up on the website over the last few weeks.
- Deacon Mike report on Drive-up Communion: A few have happened and its successful. The last one we had was over a week ago and over 70 individuals were in attendance. A week before that, there were 60-70. He has been using two Eucharistic ministers to assist. Everyone has been thrilled with this idea. It's a great extension of our parish and empowers people as best as we can to assist people in our parish. It's been very successful.
- Deliz on community: Weekly food distribution has been taking place in the trailer parks, Canton, Hendersonville, and Brevard. They have acquired some funds for house rent to give to people to pay their home payments in Buncombe County. They plan to keep this going until September. She is continuing to educate the community with weekly podcasts. We are planning with Antonio Garcia and the community leaders from those areas to assist with distributing the food. They've also been distributing food in Burnsville on a monthly basis.
- The Care of Creation Committee is preparing to have a recycling center built and ready as life gets more normal and in-person Church attendance increases. They would also like to work with the Church administration to see where existing products can be replaced with others made from recycled paper. **Rita Anderson has been putting ECO Tips into the weekly bulletin.** Here's an example: Since COVID and restaurant restrictions, takeout meals have increased. When ordering, tell them no plastic utensils needed and use your own utensils. **Google "Energy Savers Network"** for a free service that will save you money by weatherizing your

home. They also install LED's, low-flow shower heads, and an insulation blanket for your water heater. **"Solarize Asheville Buncombe" is a program to be announced 4/1/21.** If you are thinking about Solar, this program makes installing affordable thorough group purchasing - spearheaded by The Blue Horizon Project (city/county/Duke Energy). **Good News: Andrea Walter and members of The Congregational Church – United Church of Christ in Tryon** were concerned about saving money and helping the environment. On 6/16/20 they visited St. Eugene and Grace Covenant to learn about Solar Panels. Over the year they have stayed in touch, and at the end of this month they are installing 107 Panels on their Church.

- Finance update: Mechelle Kobar said that the church donations are holding steady with offertory at 80 percent online and mail. 20 percent of offertory is taking place at mass. St. Eugene Catholic Church is doing very well.
- Parish Directory with Parishioner Photos: Sabine reports that we will get started around August 29<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. The schedule will be available online. See social hall for example of photos. There will be gift certificates, and she needs a big group of helpers.
- Easter Plans: Fr Pat reports he will have a sit-down meeting tomorrow in light of pandemic to think about how Holy Week will look. He says he will need to do some brainstorming on how to do this safely. The 11:30 mass is coming back the Sunday before Palm Sunday. Rick: hospitality minister reports that for the month of January and February, there were around 120 people at the 5:30 mass. There was a big surge and variance over last week in January and first week of February. Numbers were up to 140. At the 7:30 mass, there were 230 total in January. We have seen a huge increase in the number of members wanting to come back with the vaccine roll-out and with Lent. The issue is having enough hospitality members. Sabine suggests we open the back door where the sacristy is. The weekend before Palm Sunday, (March 21) is when the 11:30 am mass will resume. Rick suggests we do a call for Eucharistic Ministers.
- Information on adult Education committee: Fr. Pat says he will be doing the mass for Slow Motion, part 2 on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. There will be another mass held on March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Fr. Pat announces future Mass schedule for Easter.
- Closing prayer at 7:14.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Ashley Torres. If you have any questions or need additional information about anything on the minutes, please reach out to a Parish Council member. All Parish Council members' information is posted on the wall in the Fellowship Hall.*