

**THE PARISH OF ST. EUGENE PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES – September 3, 2020**

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

**EXCUSED:** Lynn Heth, Raul Cervantes, Pat Irmien, Nancy Maldonado, Deliz Romero

**GUESTS:** Sue Koesters, Chris Amys

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- Meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm and an opening prayer was said by Fr. Pat.
- August Minutes were approved.
- Fr. Pat updates us with the Rectory. Chris Amys (finance chair) hands out Financial statements from the last year. Last year we made a lot more money because we are accepting donations for the school expansion project. Chris reviews highlights the last year - Roughly the income July-June (3 ½) months was only down 2%. Report from diocese says we are in the top 20% for offeratories. Expenses were down 5% last year. We had a better year during Covid than the year prior. Year to date (2 months) similar trends and offertory is down by 5% which is a victory all things considered. Financial picture is strong. When you look at year to date this year, throw budget numbers out the window. Budgets were prepared before Covid environment happened. We are spending far less than last year. August 31st report- expenses aren't real. When all is said and done, we are operating in a pandemic, break even. Huge Victory. We bought a new rectory. In the end, we think it will be a break even deal financially. Property was sold by previous parishioners. We still own the property on Lakeshore Dr - Fr. Pat will be moving in late October, early November. Deacon Mike's son is helping with the move and getting the former property ready for sale. We will have a few parish work days to get the property ready (landscaping, painting). We drew some money from parish savings and got a \$100k bridge loan to buy the property. Fr. Pat updates that the home is an upgrade. Small homeowners association fee. We're blessed to have parishioners that are continuing to give. There is talk about the outdoor space for mass.
- Fr. Pat on Asheville Catholic School- 6 classroom addition is well underway. Foundation and footers are put in place. Bathrooms are really close to getting ready for the 1st day of school. So far smooth project; no big surprises. Fr. Pat decides to wait on adding the additional weekend mass. 2 factors- our numbers are trending. Another reason to not add 11:30 - we only have 2 people cleaning after mass. The amount of energy it takes to do a mass with a facial mask is a lot. Fr. feels we have a pretty winning formula right now. Numbers have only been a little high with the Spanish mass. He's going to give the month of September and see what the numbers look like. Maybe easing into it with the 11:30 mass happening once a month. Other churches are offering more services now.
- Rick Lober- We put a call out on additional hospitality ministers. We only have 3 ministers. 7:30 mass hitting capacity (200ish). We don't really have the space and it has become a challenge to keep people safe. We really need 4-5 ministers at the 9:00 mass. There were a few people who refused to wear masks. Sabine asks about the Knights helping. Still waiting on a response.
- Bill Maloney presented information on our 5 Year Solar Anniversary 10/28/15, Geothermal Study, Lighting, and Heating and Cooling. 1) Solar - Thanks to the generous

donations of parishioners and others, our 147 panels continue to make money whenever the sun shines, with 20 years left on their warranty. They have contributed \$30,000 and kept 432,700 lbs. of CO2 out of the air we breathe which is equivalent to planting 3,269 trees. St. Eugene continues to help other Churches and families get into Solar. 2) Geothermal - Rick Clemenzi and Judy Siglin from Geothermal Design Center submitted a Feasibility Study document to Fr. Pat. We are looking at what could be saved if we heated and cooled using the constant temperature below the earth's surface. 3) Lighting - We need a well-lighted and safe facility. The Church lighting is bright in some places and dark in others and needs adjusting. Lighting in the large hall as you enter the Church is inadequate. Replacing fluorescent fixtures with LED's everywhere will save money. All lighting inside and outside needs to be reviewed by a lighting professional. 4) Heating/Cooling - Our building has 13 HVAC/air handling units. While doing the Geothermal Study 8 air filters were found to be undersized, allowing unfiltered air into the crying room, kids' area, and elsewhere. Some filter holders were dirty. When the HVAC contractor could not quickly respond, Rick and Judy ordered and replaced the filters. Suggestions: a) We are a large facility with a lot going on. Bill suggested hiring a maintenance person part-time. We had such a person in 2011 when Fr. Pat arrived. b) Review our current HVAC contractor; it is time for a change?

- Rick Lober re: Letter to Bishop. Rick gave an update on the last three Child & Youth Protection Committee monthly meetings and stated that in light of no meaningful response to our proposals presented to Bishop Jugis and Vicar General Winslow at the March 2020 meeting, a more formal request for a response be made. Father Pat advised that he would make minor edits to a draft letter and send it, on behalf of the parish, in 1-2 weeks.
- Deacon Mike, Eucharist for the Homebound – Deacon Mike stated that approximately 12 persons had volunteered to bring the Eucharist to 20+ parishioners who cannot attend Mass in person. He asked Mechelle to order another 10 Pix for additional volunteers.
- Sue Koesters, Racial/Ethnic Justice Group – Sue advised that the group's meeting have gone well and they were going to form a partnership with St. Mark's Lutheran Church which has an established group. Father Pat stated that the parish had joined with St. Mark's on other matters and that their Justice group has been engaged on such issues for years.
- Alan Wyatt, Security Issues – Fr. Pat gave a brief overview of the vandalism incident which occurred last Thursday. Most bulletins, signs, floor markings and other items were removed and placed in three large trash bags. Bulletins related to the Hispanic ministries, Vatican 2 and all signs, floor markings, etc. related to social distancing were removed. While nothing appeared to have been stolen, the incident of vandalism was reported by Mechelle to the Asheville Police Department. Alan discussed several areas of security concern and indicated that he would develop a plan to enhance security but noted that any plan required parishioners who were both willing to focus on security inside and outside the Church and needed to be properly trained. A discussion about security cameras led Fr. Pat to direct Mechelle to contact the parish's current security

company and get an updated quote for installation of a camera system which was compatible with the parish's security system. Last quote was approximately \$14,000.

- Sabine, Amboy railing – Sabine advised that several lectors have had some difficulty walking up to the lectern. She asked whether a railing could be installed. Fr. Pat stated that “Gary” who has done other work for the parish would be contacted about such an installation.

*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.*