

Parish Council & Finance Committee Zoom Meeting
August 11, 2020

In Attendance: Fr. Jeff Lorig, Karen Fogarty, Liz Fox, Maureen Davis, Abby Skradski, Jayme Arlen, Mark Novotny, Paul Reed, David Handlos, Monica Mora-Handlos, Barb Widhalm, Jennifer Vanhaisma, Connie Gewinner

Fr. Lorig opened the meeting with prayer.

Our meeting consisted in an exercise with parish leaders to help Fr. Lorig build on the positive themes of our parish and the dreams of its leaders. There were twelve of us. We were divided into small groups then reported back to a larger group to discuss our “high point” themes and findings. We ended up with three large groups. The following are the combined answers from the three groups in no particular order:

THEMES:

- 1.) Strong sense of community and family
- 2.) Celebrations: potential for fun events, working together as a team
- 3.) Cohesiveness of neighborhood, school, parish (good socioeconomic mix) bringing people together who have a lot of skills in different areas
- 4.) Strength of the school (growing, strong population)
- 5.) Commitment to sacramental and liturgical involvement (wide variety of ministries available to choose)
- 6.) Spiritual traditions especially with the sacraments seeing them go full circle with our own children
- 7.) Reverent Masses
- 8.) Adoration
- 9.) School is our cornerstone
- 10.) Spiritual growth options like RCIA and Catechism Bible Study
- 11.) Sacraments are alive

STRENGTHS:

- 1.) Dedication – daily Mass – building community
- 2.) Compassion
- 3.) Service – people pitching in
- 4.) Family and faith

- 5.) Strong community – community events
- 7.) Longevity
- 8.) Strong growing school
- 9.) Continuation of Catholic traditions
- 10.) Spiritual consistency
- 11.) Plentiful spiritual growth options
- 12.) Ministry opportunity
- 13.) Maintaining sacraments and involvement

FUTURE DREAMS:

- 1.) Facilities updated
- 2.) Parish Center
- 3.) Youth involvement, not just school but growing faith and getting involved
- 4.) Young adults to Mass (desire to belong and contribute)
- 5.) Positive impact on the neighborhood community (garden, child care, etc.)
- 6.) More priests
- 7.) Full churches, full pews, families at Mass with their children
- 8.) Welcoming to all – reaching out to others – helping others get involved
- 9.) Catechesis for adults – not being too big of a commitment (a doable commitment)
- 10.) Bring traditions of St. Thomas More and St. Joan of Arc together
- 11.) Bible Study
- 12.) More priest presence in the school with the help of lay people – promotion of vocations!

Our next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th, 2020. It will be a prayerful evening.

Maureen Davis ended the meeting with a prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Connie Gewinner*