

## **Parish Council Meeting September 8, 2020**

**Members present:** Fr Jeff Lorig, Barb Widhalm, Joe Pesek, Abby Skradski, Monica Mora-Handlos, Liz Fox and Connie Gewinner

**Members absent:** Travis Washington, Karen Fogarty

Fr Lorig opened the meeting by leading us through a prayerful exercise with readings taken from this Sunday's readings from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Our meeting was held in person in Fr's office at St. Joan of Arc School.

### **Old Business:**

We went over last month's minutes. A discussion was held on some high points from the "Themes, Strengths and Future Dreams" compiled from our last Council Meeting.

### **New Business:**

Our meetings will now begin at 6:30pm in Fr Lorig's office at SJA.

Fr communicated bits and pieces of his vision for our Church. Where are we going? As a network of parishes possibly a new name - Midtown Catholic – we discussed what is considered Midtown. Another possible name was Resurrection Catholic.

Fr gave us two handouts - **"Midtown Catholic: Organizational and Pastoral Vision" and "A Case for Parish Consolidations."**

### **Midtown Catholic: Organizational and Pastoral Vision**

There are two tracks for renewal.

#### **A Church Organizational Structure that:**

- \* Is capable of serving more than one parish
- \* Has the minimum number of priests required to meet the needs of the regular Mass attendees on the weekends
- \* Has one pastor
- \* Has a centralized office
- \* Has priests living in the same residence when possible
- \* Has a centralized workflow for funerals, weddings, and baptisms
- \* Has the same vision and mission for each parish
- \* Has one name under which all communications flow, as in one website and bulletin
- \* Has a centralized database that tracks the ministries and progress of every parishioner
- \* Has shared "next steps" for discipleship growth
- \* Has a shared brand or culture.

#### **A Church Pastoral Culture that:**

- \* Has one mission that drives everything we do: To reach and grow disciples to become spiritual multipliers

- \* Has a clear path for discipleship growth
- \* Helps people take next steps along the path
- \* Equips people for the work of mission and ministry
- \* Is more interested in raising givers than raising funds
- \* Emphasizes and organizes outreach not only as works of mercy, but onramps to the path
- \* Creates community through small groups
- \* Offers prayerful, transcendent, and meaningful liturgies
- \* Raises up leaders for mission to be sent to other parts of the city and world.

### **Priorities by Advent:**

Priority 1: Establish a centralized workflow for funerals, weddings, and baptisms

Priority 2: Create clarity around a clear path for discipleship growth with Alpha as the first step

Priority 3: Create Midtown Catholic brand for communications (also considered was Resurrection Catholic)

Priority 4: Launch Live Stream for Mass

Priority 5: Launch Flagship Mass

Priority 6: Centralize Database and Communications.

### **What is a Clear path for Growing Disciples?**

Jesus commissioned the Church to “Go and make disciples.” Becoming a disciple is a process. The Church therefore has a strategic process for moving people along a clear path of maturing as a disciple.

### **For a Clear Path to be effective there must be:**

**Clarity** – Clarity is the ability of the process to be communicated and understood by the people.

**Movement** – Movement is the sequential steps in the process that cause people to move to greater areas of commitment.

**Alignment** – Alignment is the arrangement of all ministries and staff around the same simple process.

**Focus** – Focus is the commitment to abandon everything that falls outside of the simple ministry process.

The second handout Fr gave us was titled: **“A Case for Parish Consolidations.”** The rationale for doing this seems to be the desire to improve efficiencies and to better leverage our priests. There are two basic approaches that can be considered:

The first approach is called the **“Campus Model.”**

The second approach is called the **“Shared Pastor Model.”**

There is also the **“Cake-And-Eat-It-Too Model.”**

Dioceses must pray for wisdom and courage in making the best decision possible in consolidating parishes. They must face the reality that synergy, cost savings and most importantly, renewal, require clarity and boldness, not half-measures or compromise.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30pm in Fr’s office at SJA.

Fr ended the meeting in prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Connie Gewinner*

