

**Pastoral Council Planning Meeting via Zoom
February 9, 2021**

Present: Dcn. Tony Abts, Sharon Brabson, Pat Gureski, Jean Krebs, Alan Moser, Peter Passuntino, Tom Polacek, Jeanne Rabbel, Ann Rose, Kathy Wolff

Opening Prayer & Reflection:

The meeting was called to order at 1 pm. Jeanne lead us in reflection on the final paragraphs in the editorial “Everyone is Looking for You” in The Compass on Feb. 5, 2021.

The healing ministry of Jesus is not a thing of the past. Jesus’ healing power continues in our own time, especially in the sacramental life of the church. As we listen to God’s word and participate in the celebration of the mystery of Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection in the Eucharist, we receive God’s healing love.

Now, more than ever, the world needs the healing touch of God. Now, more than ever, those worn out by fear and despair look for divine healing flowing through our words and actions. Today God’s word invites us to become living instruments of Jesus’ healing love to a wounded world as we pray, “Speak to me, Lord.”

We realized that we hear God’s voice talking to us when we hear of the effects of COVID on peoples’ financial situations, their jobs, their health, and their grief as they are separated from those they love. The editorial reminds us to listen for His voice and be mindful of the call to become instruments of healing in our world.

Review and Approve Minutes from January 12, 2021: Follow-up for several items in the January minutes will occur at a later time. Minutes were approved pending two edits.

Review Expected Outcome and Process: Sharon reviewed the purpose of this meeting: to prepare for parish mission planning that will take place from March through June, 2021. Today’s SWOT analysis will enable us to set 3-5 high level goals which the councils, committees and commissions will work to achieve for the remainder of 2021. By the end of 2021, the mission planning team will have set long range goals that the parish will pursue for the next 3-5 years. Deacon Abts explained that due to the cyclical nature of mission planning, the work of planning is on-going. Work changes from planning, to checking, to doing/acting. Deacon also noted that some of the plan will be assigned to the Pastoral Council.

SWOT Analysis of SMDC

Council members shared their thoughts on the parish’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats on the Zoom whiteboard. See attached document for those notes and 4 high level goals.

Parish Goals:

Through consensus the Council chose these four high level goals:

1. Help Stellamaris to build back following Covid
2. Support Mission planning
3. Promote living Stellamaris’ values
4. Elevate our parish within the community (both Stellamaris and beyond)

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Discussion/questions/comments on goals or topics raised:

1. The end of Covid restrictions provides an opportunity to re-engage with parishioners.
How will we re-engage?
 - Reach out to the people we wouldn't ordinarily see
 - Prepare now
 - Have an event a month
2. How do we flatten the curve of declining membership?
3. Communicating about mission planning with parishioners
 - Be transparent
 - Create ownership among parishioners
 - Ask them how SMDC can be the parish they need
 - Should we survey/phone parishioners again?
 - Share plans & rationale with parishioners
 - Issue a personal invitation to become involved
4. Share our 4 goals with Finance Council, as well as committees & commissions

Next steps with goals discerned at this meeting:

1. Sharon will mail notes from the whiteboard and high level goals.
2. **By February 18, 2021 Council members will send Sharon suggestions on how we can live these goals in the coming year.**
3. **Council will meet again at 1 pm on February 22, 2021.**

For the good of the cause:

- Pursuant to our values of welcome, hospitality and sharing the joy, would it be possible to share a COVID appropriate greeting after the kiss of peace at mass?
- During the phone survey, parishioners spoke of wanting to hear from Fr. Tom. Will he be writing something in the bulletin?
- Recent changes in the bulletin have made it more personable and interesting. Thanks to those responsible.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 pm.

Minutes by Kathy Wolff
Approved February 22, 2021