

**Pastoral Council Meeting via Zoom link
July 21 2020**

Meeting Purpose: To review Council functions, evaluate the past FY and prioritize goals for FY21'

Present: Pat Gureski, Peter Passuntino, Mark Kuntsman, Jean Krebs, Jeanne Rabel, Tom Polacek, Alan Moser, Kevin Revolinski, Fr. Farrell, Tony Gischia, Sharon Brabson, Kathy Wolff

Sharon Brabson called the meeting to order at 1 pm, and members read Fr. Jason Blanik's "Go and Make Disciples" prayer.

Review of minutes: Council accepted May minutes as presented.

Review Council Membership/succession planning: Sharon reminded the group that members serve 3 yr. terms on the council, and that staggered terms will preserve knowledge and provide continuity within the system. She queried members about their tenure and their willingness to serve additional years. Council currently has four newer members: Jean Krebs, Peter Passuntino, Tom Polacek, and Kathy Wolff. Members with longer years of service are: Pat Gureski, Mark Kuntsman, Alan Moser, Sharon Brabson.

Stella Maris Pastoral Council Membership FY2021

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ROLE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>FY TERM END</u>
Sharon Brabson	Chair	brabsonsharon@gmail.com	2023
Peter Passuntino	Vice Chair	peterjpassuntino@msn.com	2022
Kathy Wolff	Worship Liaison Secretary	kneswolff@gmail.com	2023
Jeanne Rabel	CSR Liaison	jlabel17@gmail.com	2022
Mark Kunstman	FF Liaison	mkindc94@gmail.com	2021
Pat Gureski	Parish Life Liaison	pgureski64@gmail.com	2022
Alan Moser	At Large	mrxmas25@aol.com	2021
Tom Polacek	Stewardship	tjpolacek@gmail.com	NA
Jean Krebbs	At Large	jeanmk@sbcglobal.net	2023

Members serve until the end of the FY. For example, Mark Kuntsman's term will end on June 30, 2021.

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Discussion/clarification of council membership:

- PC is not a representative group, and membership is not based on former parishes.
- Two members are liaisons who facilitate communication between PC and Finance Council and Worship Commission.
- Some members are automatic: staff liaison, standing members (officers), members at large, pastor
- All are selected because they have skills the council needs.

General comments:

- Council members need more information about the parish because parishioners expect council members to “be in the know.”
- Members of PC should know about the budget.
- If Finance, CSR et al are making decisions, what’s PC’s purpose?

Decisions: Pastoral Council and Finance Council will begin to exchange minutes in order to improve communication between the two councils.

Follow up: Sharon will make initial communication with Finance chair Chuck Germain.

Update from Staff: Kevin Revolinski reported that the parish has been planning month to month because uses of our buildings have changed as numbers of COVID cases have changed. In mid-June the state moved to phase 2 in which churches can be open at 25% capacity. Initially the parish opened three sites for mass, but we adjusted to using only the two largest sites to accommodate more attendees.

Mass schedule: The parish will follow the current mass schedule through July. In August and September the schedule will change for weekends and weekdays. A new schedule is presently on the website. Daily masses have been very well attended. On July 21, 40 people attended mass in Egg Harbor.

Kevin explained the choice of sites selected in this schedule by explaining that using all the sites respects parishioners’ need to feel part of the parish. He said that when the parish concentrates activities at the northern end of the parish, parishioners from other area tell the staff that they feel disconnected. As evidence of the difference using different sites makes, Kevin reported that several

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of the 47 people at a recent weekday mass made very generous contributions that morning.

Insurance report: The parish just had an insurance visit from AON, and the representative gave us a very good report on our buildings.

Building and Grounds Committee: This committee has not been overly active. It used to have one rep per site except for FC and SB which shared the same rep. Each site had a sargeant, and now we need to replace one of them. During the insurance visit, the representative did inquire about a safety committee. Kevin believes this committee would benefit from a manager and has asked Garey Bies to become involved with this group.

SMDC's transition to new business manager: Kevin stated that his last day at Stella Maris will be August 1. He will become the Business Manager at St. Pius in Appleton, Fr Tom's former parish, on August 15. Kevin expressed sadness at leaving a job he has very much enjoyed. At the same time, he feels confident that he is "handing off a great opportunity" to a very fortunate person. He also said that he will be able to return to our parish to assist the new manager. Kevin thanked the council for its support and complimented Stella Maris parishioners. Council members expressed their appreciation for Kevin's efforts and wished him well at St. Pius.

Fr. Tom and Kevin reported that there were several applicants interested in the position and that they have extended an offer to one of two very qualified applicants. They are very excited about this person and are hopeful that he will accept SMDC's offer. The new hire will begin on August 14.

Discuss Council Evaluation and Planning

Sharon explained that we are a fairly new council having just been reformed in August 2019.

General comments on the role of prayer at council meetings:

- One member reported being a "little confused" that prayer is such an important function for pastoral council.
- Council must complete the work of the agenda during its meetings.
- Prayer helps us focus on the agenda.

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- Through prayer the Council develops community.
- Sharon will send information to the Council on Council Roles including Prayer.
- Successful organizations need to do well well in 4 areas: communication, alignment, accountability, and transparency.”

Questions raised:

- What kind of council do we want to be?
- Do we want direction to be top down and input from the bottom up?
- Do we want to be involved with other areas?
- Have we embraced the directive function? How do we change?

Responses:

- The decline in membership of our parish suggests we need to change our game plan. Membership has dropped from 1000 to 600 in _____ years.
- Communication is really important
 - We should get input--written reports/updates--from the commissions.
 - Commission/committee leaders should know when they have to come to the council.
 - Why would those other groups feel compelled to report to us when the council has oversight without authority?
- We do not have a structure for communication, and we need to create that structure.
 - Expectation should be that groups come to PC for certain reasons: to request support and/or resources from PC
 - The liaisons need to bring matters to the PC's attention asap.

Evaluations on the work of the council in 2020:

- Four people turned in their evaluations.
- Those who have not turned in the evaluation should send it to Sharon so she can add their rankings to the data.

Proposal to survey parishioners about services during pandemic

- Background: The survey was created to help Faith Formation understand what's going on within the parish.
- Goal: get ideas from people and learn if there is something else we should be doing during this time of the pandemic.
- Feedback on survey:
 - What would you expect to hear?
 - What aren't you getting right now?
 - Surveys build ownership, so whatever we can do will help build that
 - When the general dispensation was issued, it was accompanied by a directive to do more outreach. Parish staff was split to work in two areas: outreach (Becky, Katrina, and Linda) and operations (Lorie and Kevin)
 - Can we do anything in a car? Brief discussion of ideas and drawbacks/benefits of them.

NEXT STEPS??

Proposed Dates for FY2020

2nd Tuesdays—October 13; Jan 12; April 13; July 13

Sharon will resend us this list as confirmation.

Closing Prayer

Tom lead us in prayer with the "Our Father."

Meeting adjourned at 4:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wolff