

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES November 17, 2020

Members present: Sharon Brabson, Tom Polacek, Anne Rose, Tony Gischia, Dcn. Tony Abts, Fr. Tom Farrell, Becky Nash, Peter Passuntino, Pat Gureski, Jean Krebs, Jean Rabbel, Alan Moser, Kathy Wolff

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. Deacon Tony lead us in prayer with a reading from Ezekiel 34. We reflected about our role as council members and how a shepherd looks for scattered sheep and calls to them if they have drifted away.

Parish Survey Feedback and reactions from experience in making calls

Council members shared these comments:

- "uplifted by their thanks"
- Closing and reopening church was marked by "confusing information from leadership."
- "loneliness among the elderly"
- "want to hear from Fr. Tom"
- "people were out of the loop because of resources and felt disconnected"
- "what could we do to bring people together? "Say a prayer together at the same time"
- "Connection" is the key to getting our diverse community together.

Sharon Brabson reviewed the objectives of the survey:

1. To connect with all households in the parish
2. To get input from parishioners on how SMP might better serve them during the pandemic and going forward

Survey Analysis of questions 4-6:

Tony Gischia

4.0 Overall Response Data: 61.6%

The response rate is based on 552 households in SMP household list. We received responses from 340 households. This return is very good.

5.1 Are you comfortable in attending weekend Mass in our churches?

200 of the 311 respondents said that they were not attending mass. Thus, 2/3 of our parishioners are not comfortable returning to mass in the near term. Among risks noted were conflicts with work, presence of tourists, or living in a nursing home.

5.2 What needs to happen for you to return?

75% of respondents said they want the virus under control before they return. The others said there was nothing we could do.

5.3 What can the parish provide as we welcome people back?

Respondents indicated that they want to remain connected to the parish. They hope for communication that will allow them to feel part of the parish.

5.4 What is the main way in which you receive parish information?

Most respondents access parish information online.

5.5 What is your preferred method for receiving parish information?

Nearly 100% receive information through email, whether through the parish app or website. The parish also mails the printed bulletin to those who request it.

6 Short term follow-ups required on 63 surveys—p. 11 in report

- Requests for outreach
- Offers to volunteer
- Editing of phone, address, or email info

Discussion about next steps

1. Communication with the parish: Sharon will thank parishioners for their responses and report on findings of the survey for the November 28-29 bulletin.
2. Deacon Tony will receive all the surveys and will work with the issues that have surfaced.
3. Question/concern: because the situation with the virus is not permanent, we need to be thinking now about how we maintain connection with the parishioners who are not attending. How will we get these people back?
4. Suggestions: If we are correct that people aren't coming back and are in a new place, we will need assess where we are and what are we going to do to bring them back.
5. Suggestion: share our game plan with parishioners, e.g.: get 100% of all emails, develop a "call team" etc.

Parish Mission Planning Overview

Deacon Tony gave us an over-view of mission planning by explaining that it uses data to drive decisions. The aim of parish mission planning is to create alignment between the parish mission and vision and the diocese and the parish. Deacon believes that mission planning "changes the way a parish thinks about planning and mission." The process will help to move the focus of the parish from scarcity to abundance, from maintenance to mission, from programs to people, and from looking inward to looking at the community.

Through the planning process we will create goals and strategies as well as metrics, action steps, and periodic evaluation necessary to achieve them over the next 10, 15, 20 years. This rigor of this kind of analysis allows a parish to consider a major undertaking like a capital campaign or whatever it feels it needs. Deacon noted that

there have been three waves of mission planning in the diocese so far. 66% of the parishes in the diocese have completed this process.

Going through the "mission planning" process usually requires a year. It will be done best if we are able to physically gather in groups. Thus, we have time to train ourselves and put the plan together. The diocese has prepared support documents that name 20 key items.

Discussion

Q: Who oversees Mission Planning at SMP?

A: Tom Mulligan, Lou Covotsos, Mike Tafacory

Q: What is the role of the Pastoral Council during this time? How do the commissions fit into the process?

A: Three responses:

1. Pastoral Council could set up the team and assist with setting up the process.
2. Dcn Tony said leadership team is smaller than the council, probably about 6-8 people.
3. Pastoral Council must be looking at the short-term situation during mission planning.

Q: Why are we doing "Mission Planning"?

A: We do this to better achieve the mission of our parish. We are responsible to have sound finances, determine parishioners' needs and to meet those needs through our outreach. We know a lot of people have left the parish.

Q: How will the survey tell us their needs? How can we arrest the drain?

Q: Are there more Catholics who have dropped away from practice in this area? The parish has fewer members in 2020 than it did in 2015.

Annual Meeting December 6, 2020

The parish Annual Meeting will be live streamed from SB after 10:30 mass. **The Annual Report needs to be finished by then.**

In FY 2021, Pastoral Council will be responsible for producing the Annual Report. **In January we need to create a timeline for producing the report.**

Next meeting will be our Business Meeting: January 12, 1:00PM

We closed the meeting by praying the "Glory be to the Father" at 3 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kathy Wolff