

**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
Via Zoom October 13 2020
1:03 PM to 3:00 PM**

Present: Jean Rabel, Pete Passuntino, Jean Krebbs, Pat Gureski, Ann Rose, Father Tom Farrell, Deacon Tony Abts, Sharon Brabson, Kathy Wolff

Opening Prayer and Reflection: Sharon opened the meeting at 1:03. After reading the following Sunday's gospel and reflecting on Bl. Frederic Ozanam's characterization of his day as being "troubled but an instructive time," members shared what they are learning during the pandemic.

- The pandemic has revealed things in our society that we had not seen or understood before.
- We wonder if compromise can be possible when people are so convinced of their own opinions.
- Priorities have shifted, and people value the material over the spiritual.
- We need to listen in order to connect.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from July 21, 2020 were approved pending removal of an inaccurate statement.

Pastor's Words: Father Tom thanked council members for making the calls to parish members. Father also reported that the dispensation from mass had been reinstated.

Deacon Abt's report: Faith Formation began the year with in-person classes. Turn-out was low--20% in the lower grades and 60% in confirmation class. The overall average was 50% since confirmation is our largest class. Linda contacted parents of children not attending, and the parish offered a virtual option. To date, 15 students have opted for virtual, and the number is increasing. Training in Zoom was provided for all teachers. Deacon's prepared notes will be shared with the minutes of this meeting.

Follow up discussion of two questions raised in July:

- 1) "How much time do we want to spend in prayer?" Dcn. Tony offered that 10% of meeting time would be appropriate. Members determined to open future meetings by reading, reflecting and discussing scripture, and to rotate the role of leader. **We did not appoint a prayer leader for the November 17, 2020, meeting.**
- 2) "What kind of a council do we want to be?" The council is an umbrella group that gathers information and viewpoints from all areas of the parish to plan, guide, and sometimes teach. The councils depend critically on liaisons for timely two-way communication between commissions and councils.
 - Tony Gischia asked how liaisons determine what to share with their respective groups. He believes that identifying criteria, like the impact of a decision/event on the entire parish or an expenditure of a certain amount, would provide clarity and uniformity for communication.
 - Deacon Tony summarized the differences between Finance and Pastoral Councils: Finance raises the funds, and Pastoral Council determines how funds will be spent. The two councils are supposed to meet once annually. **We should schedule this annual meeting in early winter.**

Minutes approved 11.17.2020

Parish Mission Planning: Stellamaris had expected to begin mission planning around the time that the lockdown began. This process is diocesan planning that helps parishes discern “who we are,” and “what we are called to do.” It works at the tactical level to determine how to achieve parish mission, vision, and values. By January 12 we should be able to put together a strategic plan. Tony Gischia noted that two years ago goals and objectives were discussed. Sharon will send the group notes from that session. We will need a planning meeting.

Sharon noted that the One by One campaign was supposed to be launched here [Stellamaris??], so the parish can call the timing of this campaign.

Annual Report Process: The finances are finished, and they need to be sent to the diocese. The rest of the report is coming together. We hope to be able to pull this together by the end of November. Sharon notes that we need to set planning dates for FY2021 in January.

Parish Survey Update: Tony G. thanked members for making the 75 calls that have been completed and logged to date. It is too early to see trends. Jean K. suggested that we avoid scheduling phone calls during an election season, and that we should be sure to keep these note sheets on file for reference. Sheets will be retained.

Staff / Parish Update: Deacon Tony Abts informed the council that because of the emergency health order in the county, he has reviewed the Stellamaris protocols with Sue Powers at DCMH. Ms. Powers was very pleased with them. He further reported that the parish has received a \$87K loan through the CARES act. The parish is completing the paperwork that turns that loan into a grant. Deacon Tony’s written report will be included with the minutes.

World Youth Day: Jean Krebbs reported that she and her husband will take Stellamaris students to the next World Youth Day which will be held near Fatima, Portugal, in 146 weeks. She is hopeful that Fr. Tom and Deacon Tony will be able to attend this day. Jean hopes that finances are not a barrier to students who want to participate and will contact Jim at the office about setting up a separate fund.

Pastoral Council Membership Planning: Sharon believes that the Council should be recruiting one or two new members because of retirements scheduled for ’21.

Next Meetings:

Annual Report planning: November 17, 2020

Business meeting: January 12, 2021

Closing prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 after praying the “Glory Be to the Father.”