Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – March 16 , 2021

Meeting held in person in the Social Hall, socially distanced.

Present Council Members:  Father Patrick Barnes, Dean Flicker, Richard Frie, Carol Goodwin, Donny Lill, Brian Lutes, Geoff Johnson, Karen Dehmer, Ryan Graham, Lanette Aitchison, Melissa Anderson and Renee Berens.

Parish Trustees Present:  Jan Zaruba and Les Wilmot

Member Absent:  Keri Cruser.

Meeting called to order by Donny Lill at 7:15 PM

Opening Prayer – Father Barnes opened with prayer.  Everyone joined in Evening Prayers.

Review/Approve February minutes:   Motion made by Brian to approve minutes with two corrections, motion seconded by Karen.  Minutes will be sent to the office for posting.

Spanish Ministry: Father Barnes talked about a visit from Father Joseph Williams, Vicar of Latino Ministry at the Archdiocese, to the Office Staff at last month’s Staff Meeting.  Father Williams provided some resources to the staff and gave them a self-evaluation to complete and discuss at their next meeting.  They were asked to evaluate what stage our parish was in and at what point as far as integrating our communities.  This process will be one step at a time.  Is it good to continue the Spanish Mass as long as the first generation of immigrants still provide a need.  Father wondered if there should be a Committee formed with three leaders from the Anglo community and three leaders from the Latino Community.  We do have a very friendly relationship with the Latinos, but it does not appear to be the time to try and integrate our communities.  The Latino community can help to grow our parish. Father Evan, who has been providing Mass in Spanish, has drawn in many more Latinos to the parish and there is hope this group will stay once his time of service to us is done in July.

Young Adult Ministry Event:   Geoff reported that the first event was successful.  There were 20 in-person attendees and 10 on Zoom.  There was a survey passed out that showed approval with the event but talking about more attendees, more fellowship.  The meeting on this Thursday will include a talk about the Mass with Deacon Steve Dupay, followed by Q&A. There will then be an opportunity for Adoration and then fellowship in the Social Hall.  Geoff said there were questions about how to categorize “Young adults.”  Geoff, who is 39, was surprised to learn he was a young adult so he wants to reach out to anyone 18-39 as well as Genxer and Baby Boomers.  Anyone who wants to be included in fellowship can check in online.  Geoff is very encouraged and has great expectations looking forward. One member suggested out-reach to our young Latinos and Father mentioned that several of this young adult community currently go to the Archdiocese to meet with other young adult Latinos and perhaps they can be encouraged to join our group.

Liaison Assignments/Responsibilities:  Donny reminded everyone that there is a responsibility to be reaching out to their assigned ministry.  He understands that some ministry groups have not been meeting during the Covid restrictions.  He suggested that members contact the office to see what groups are still meeting and who is the contact for that ministry.  Please let Donny know if they have met with their assigned ministry and would like time to report at the next meeting so that he can add them to the agenda.

Holy Week Planning: Father Barnes reported that the planning is still somewhat flexible.  He said that Father Evan will be coming to all Masses and the homily will be in English and Spanish. Or, could be just the Spanish Mass.

There will NOT be a sign-up for Masses, instead the plan is to set up many chairs in the Sanctuary, the Gathering Space and perhaps even in the Social Hall with Zoom on the screen.  He asked everyone to encourage friends and relatives to come early.  He is considering using every pew with checkerboard style seating but that will depend on how many ushers he has available.  He is meeting with Dan McElwee as well as Donny and other ushers, to come up with a plan for covering the Masses.

Donny reminded everyone that the Ushers have many responsibilities.  With the Pandemic leaving many Masses at less than optimal attendance of ushers, the job of the few has become much more difficult.

Open Forum:

Renee provides services at Mississippi Shores and has recently begun stopping by for readings and reflections with some folks.  One resident, who attends 10:30 Mass at St. Henry, said that he was concerned by people stopping in the Gathering Space to visit, sitting without social distancing and many without masks.  Father again reminded the Council that he would be meeting with the Usher Ministry to work out some details.

Dean asked who was currently responsible for registering new people?  Father was not sure but said that he does receive copies of the new registrants and tries to contact them with a welcoming phone call.  He suggested checking with Vikki to see how this is handled.

Lanette was approached about the apparent damage to the pews from so much sanitizing.  She was told that the pews would be stained and varnished once the pandemic is over.

Also, when will incense be used?  Father said that currently he uses incense only at the 10:30 Mass.  He would like to use it more often but does not have a plan to increase use.  Should this information be provided to the parish so that those with allergies can avoid those Masses?

Father discussed the moving of the pulpit.  He had it moved forward for the Daily Mass because most participants sit in the center area and can see and hear the reader much better.  He thinks it should be moved back for Sunday Masses until there can be further discussion with the parish.  If there is to be a permanent move there needs to be discussion with and permission from the Archdiocese.

Meeting ended.  Donny closed with prayer.  Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next month the meeting is April 20th, and will be at 7:15 in the Social Hall.

Respectful submitted,
Susan Holmes,  Recording Secretary