

St. John Vianney Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2020 (Zoom)

PRESENT:

- **Council Members:** Fr. Jim Vrba, Deacon Daryl Fortin, Bob Baldes, Mark Blaser, Steph Bray, Joan Byrne, Martin Corrigan, Ann Fisher, Ron Immesoete, Eleanor Kiel, Kathy Langley, Les Lipinski, Joe Moralez, Jeannie Moran, Deb Sullivan, Tom Sunderbruch
- **Staff / Visiting Committee Members:** Christy Barnum, Judy Benevento, Dan Drescher, Pat Monahan, Deb Morse, Dan Schlader, Jan Stevenson

OPENING PRAYER (Fr. Jim Vrba) An opening prayer was led in honor of our veterans and current military.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 MINUTES (Deb Sullivan) Previous meeting minutes were sent out in advance and approved by unanimous consensus.

MEETING AGENDA REVIEW (Deb Sullivan) Meeting agenda was reviewed with no questions or changes.

WINTER COVID-19 DIRECTIVES FROM DIOCESE (Fr. Vrba) The Diocese directives have been out for several months. With the COVID-19 cases rising and Iowa currently having a red status, we will not move to the next step and will continue with current restrictions: 30 minute limit, every 3rd pew, 6 ft between families, and continued use of masks and hand sanitizer. For the holidays, we will still honor the dead in November and still have Angel Gifts (details will be in Vianney Vine). Christmas Masses will be at 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm on Christmas Eve and at 10am on Christmas Day, with expanded capacity in Mary Chapel (35 people), the Activity Center (50 People), and the parking lot. Online sign-up will be available at the end of November. Christmas pageants will be virtual sing-alongs. 1st Reconciliation will be spread over ten sessions for the 80 children in the Mary chapel and parents can observe through glass. (*Since the time of this PC meeting, it has been decided that 1st Reconciliation will be delayed until sometime in Lent.*) We are reviewing suggestions for increasing ventilation over the winter months and for the expanded capacity of the holiday Masses.

BETTENDORF CATHOLIC STUDY UPDATE (Fr. Jim Vrba) Our contract is almost over with the Meitler Group as all that remains is recommendations for the future. There will be a Zoom meeting on Monday, November 16, at 6pm – for Parish and Finance Councils, Parish Staff, the Bishop and Meitler to review survey results in detail and hear the recommendations and timeline. Those involved should receive an email with a link to register, which you should follow to receive the Zoom information

COMMITTEE / STAFF REPORTS (Deb Sullivan) Committee reports were sent out a day in advance for review. Fr. Jim noted that there are a lot of activities taking place around the parish despite the COVID-19 restrictions and extended his thanks to everyone for keeping things moving. Eleanor added some detail to the Christmas Mass logistics, stating that seats will be hand-assigned according to the seating diagram for each reservation and will be communicated in advance to everyone. Additionally, the prelude music will be performed outside by carolers with Victorian-style hats. Jan added detail around the Angel Gifts in that we will try to help same groups as last year: people can adopt a family or individual, they can send a donation and we will have shoppers buy the gifts or they can send gift cards. Sign-up will be online using SignUpGenius and gift drop-off in person will be limited to one Friday/Saturday only. Les extended kudos to the Religious Ed staff, noting that many people cite that program as one of the reasons they like our parish.

PASTOR REPORT (Fr. Jim Vrba) Finance Council is working on a State of the Parish report, which may be a video on the website and Facebook. They are also working on a budget summary (weekly budget appears in the bulletin). The apparent deficit is more reflective of loss of offertory gifts from lack of in-person participation. In place of a Christmas book give-away, we will have a St. Nick Express drive-through event on Sunday, December 6, from 5-7pm. There will be ten stations to visit from your car around the outside of the church to celebrate St. Nicholas day. The final station will be a living Nativity scene that may include some live animals. There will be festive lights, gift bags, and lots of fun for all. This may even become an annual celebration. We are looking at reaching out to contact parishioners, because we are worried that the pandemic is causing people to become disconnected and lose touch. We are considering a call tree to connect with parishioners and will be soliciting volunteers from the council and committees who would be willing to call to check on people. Fr. Vrba has purchased a house on a quiet section of Duggleby near Eisenhower Elementary for his retirement next summer. He is looking forward to help from handy members of the parish to help ready the house for his move. He has already received some very nice housewarming gifts, for which he extends many thanks.

PARISH CONCERNS / OTHER BUSINESS (All Participants) With the flood of press on the Vatican's report on Cardinal McCarrick, we would like for all to acknowledge the complexities of the situation and that prayer is needed for the healing of all involved.

CLOSING PRAYER (Fr. Jim Vrba) The council closed with a Hail Mary for the ill and isolated during the pandemic.

Submitted by Marty Corrigan, Secretary