

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes Thursday, January 21, 2021 – via ZOOM

Members present via Zoom: Fr. Antony, Bob Baumann, Katrina Baumann, Fran Cautela (part-time), Mike DeBrosse, Kim Endres, Roger Heckel, Pete Hendey, Lance Lewis, Ginny Mack, Dianne McMillan, Carol Shultz, Robin Racine, Bill Rectanus, Dean Racine, and Kevin Stogran.

Not Present: John Berni, Leo Kome, Jeff DeBrosse, and Elizabeth Effah.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM, Kevin took meeting minutes due to some meeting attendance conflicts that Fran was handling that evening.

- I. Minutes of the November 2020 meeting were reviewed with no corrections. Bob motioned to accept the Minutes and Robin second the motion. Minutes Approved.

II. Fr. Antony's Report:

- Father announced that the new Music Ministry Director search has been completed, and Mrs. Pamala Hamann has been selected for the position. Her first day will be January 29th and will be at the Masses on Jan 30th/31st. Pam comes to us with over 19 years of experience as a musical accompanist, cantor, and coordinator of liturgical settings at St. John Neumann in Sunbury, Ohio.
- Last fall there was some parish membership concerns raised as a result of what appeared to be falling parishioner census number reporting coming out of the ParishSoft computer system. Since December, Father reported he has been calling parish families once again due to the pandemic to see how they have been coping. A side benefit of those pandemic conversations has been Father has been asking if they are still active in the parish. What he has found was that many families that the computer system was marking "in-active" are in fact still active, they may just not attend Mass in person, maybe viewing the livestream. The computer system was marking many families "in-active" based on attendance and financial contributions. That was a computer setting the Father was not aware of in the new ParishSoft system. Based on these recent phone discussions, Father believes the parish has only lost 3 to 4 families in the last few months which is normal turn-over for a parish our size. The automatic active/inactive flag has been disabled.
- Since Ash Wednesday is before our next Parish Council meeting, Father updated the Council on the new method, just issued by the Holy See, to distribute Ashes during a pandemic. Instead of Ashes spread on the parishioner foreheads, they will be sprinkled over the head. More details will be announced in future Flocknotes.
- Father gave an update on the Parish Secretary position. Lauren's last day will be Friday January 22nd. Father has been learning many of her functions and has started doing some of them as temporary replacement. A search committee will be formed for a replacement position. In the meantime, the parish will just have to work thru the transition period.

III. Emerging Issues:

- A. **E-Mail Communication** – Fran was not available during that portion of the meeting, but no one was aware of any Parish Council emails that might have been received since the last meeting. Later Fran did confirm there were no new emails.
- B. **2021 Parish Council Elections** – Kevin opened the discussion with an overview of the upcoming Parish Council transition that should occur this spring. This year marks the end of the multi-year transition from a Council of 12 voted members each holding a 2-year term, with 6 members rotating off each year, to the new operating model of 9 voted members, each holding 3-year terms, and 3 members leaving each spring and 3 new members elected each spring. To complete this transition from the original model to the current model, this spring 5 members are scheduled to rotate off a 3-year term and would be replaced by 3 new voted members in the spring election. The purpose of raising this at the January meeting was to raise awareness of this process, which is normally scheduled to start during the February meeting. Due to the pandemic, it was raised in the January meeting to jumpstart the process given the potential issues of running a Council election during the pandemic. A table of current Council membership and who would rotate off in the spring was presented via ZOOM. The intent of raising this issue a month early for awareness was achieved as an in-depth discussion/debate of possible options and their impacts was discussed. This covered the majority of the meeting time. A discussion/debate of almost 1 hour ensued. The following 3 options were raised and discussed during the meeting:

- a. Conduct a normal annual Council election process;
 - b. Freeze the Council membership for 2021, do not hold elections, and require existing members scheduled to rotate off to stay another year at least;
 - c. Consider allowing members to rotate off Council but replace them with 1-year Pastor appointments;
- After considerable discussion, some action items were assigned for follow-up, and the rest of the meeting continued.

The rest of the Emerging Issues was deferred to the end of the meeting if time permitted.

IV. **Committee Reports:**

- A. **Finance** – Bob reported that the preliminary 2nd Quarter Financial Results were encouraging. Actual income exceeded expected income budgeted by \$1,000. With the loss of the Music Director position for the quarter, and other reduced spending, the expenses were less than expected. Therefore, the parish is in the black for the first half of the year, not in the red as potentially expected. Also, Bob reported that the income numbers do support Father's comments about the possible loss of parish membership not being as much as was previously thought from the ParishSoft reporting.
- B. **Faith Formation** – Ginny reported that the youth Faith Formation program is still moving along. They have 16 families, representing 24 kids and they are getting the 4 teachers' setup with email communications and other needs for class. Ginny also attended the Diocesan board meeting for Faith Formation where it was reported all the parishes are struggling to get things moving due to the pandemic. She believes we are doing good all things considered.
- C. **Development Ministry** – Bill reported that the Development Ministry is still discussing how to improve parish communications capabilities especially during the pandemic. Working with Dean, there has been discussions with the Diocese about a new evangelistic focused website design from a Canadian company. The Diocese is looking at the due diligence of getting this type of website available for the parishes. This is just very early discussion, a lot more to follow.
- D. **Knights of Columbus** – Nothing to report. They are using Flocknotes for meeting announcements.
- E. **Liturgy & Spiritual Life** – John was not in attendance but shortly after the meeting, we realized he had sent a written report in advance, we just did not see it before the meeting. His report was sent out after the meeting to the Council via Flocknotes. Father reported the ministry is also preparing for the parish Lenten Mission this spring. It will be both in person and livestreamed.
- F. **St. Vincent de Paul** – Robin reported that back in December, the annual Christmas Bag drive, which usually collects 200 bags of goods, this year did collect 70 bags. While reduced this was a success, the need downtown was for only 60 bags, so 10 bags went to our own SVdP Pantry. They are also exploring the possibility of conducting the bi-annual "What's in your closet" clothing drive. Discussions on ability to do that drive during the pandemic is on-going, so more to follow.

V. **Emerging Issues - Continued:**

With the committee reports completed, we moved back to the previously skipped Emerging Issues:

- C. **Strategic Plan** – Kevin raised the question if everyone was comfortable with the previously distributed St Elizabeth Strategic Plan and the Parish Event Scheduling Process recommendation. Those documents were sent to the Council back in November with a request for everyone to read them, raise any comments or concerns and then we could vote to recommend them go to Father for his consideration. There was no additional questions or comments raised at the meeting. Lance motioned, and Pete seconded that we put both documents up for approval vote. Everyone was in approval, no declines. Both documents are now approved by Council, and go to Father for comment or implementation.

VI. **Other Concerns**

No issues raised.

VII. **Closing Prayer** – Deacon Dean gave the closing prayer.

Convened: 7:04pm

Adjourned: 8:37 pm

Next Meeting: February 18th, 2021