

## St. John Evangelist Pastoral Council Meeting

April 02, 2020: 6:30 pm via Web Conferencing

**Present:** Fr Joe Dominic, Lynn Justinger, Scott Misfeldt, Lynn Miller, Tom Reilly, Julia Rodemeier, Bill Rutten, Lori Udovich, Audrey Waitkus, Tony Yetzer

**Absent:** Rich Tauferner

**Guests:** None

- I. **Opening Prayer and Reflection** Bill Rutten
- II. **Review and Approve** (Audrey Waitkus 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Reilly) 04/02/2020 PC Agenda Approved
- III. **Review and Approve** (Tom Reilly 2<sup>nd</sup> Lynn Justinger) 02/25/2020 PC Minutes Approved
- IV. **Finance Council Report** Tony Yetzer stated the Financial Council did not meet in March.

Tom Reilly asked what the financial situation is this year compared to the last?

Tony Yetzer replied the income was similar through February. The churches expenses are still higher than the income. The loss for the year is estimated to be over \$30,000 with additional loss for the bell tower.

Father Joe noted they will once again try to cut employee hours. He is taking a 20 percent payout for three months due to the coronavirus. Because masses have been cancelled, it is unknown how this will impact income. The Financial Council will have a better idea of the impact after the next meeting.

- V. **Committee Liaison Requests for Council Action** No committee requests were filed. Tom Reilly asked if he could have a list of committees and contacts.
- VI. **Secretary Report** Lynn Miller reported there were no new people in the guest book prior to the church closing. She wondered if the guest book has always been assessable or if the greeters know to have visitors sign it.

She said there were a number of comments in the suggestion box this month. Four were general questions and twelve were about elementary religious education. Summarized comments and responses are as follows:

- Why was there no mention of the Archbishop's coronavirus Mass dispensation and related protocol in this week's bulletin? Father Joe said it was posted in the bulletin.
- Why Father Joe has not declared his intention to become Pastor at St. John's and why is he rarely present at St. John's? Father Joe directed this comment to the August 21, 2019 Pastoral Council meeting minutes.
- Why wasn't the administrative position posted? Father Joe said it wasn't because Carol announced she was leaving in October, but agreed to stay until the end of the year. Later, her new company said they needed her earlier and he had not yet begun the hiring process so he did not have time to follow the standard procedure. Tom Reilly asked if it was possible to hire a temporary service if this happens in the future. Father Joe replied no because some of the tasks access confidential information.
- Why are Gretchen and Jeanne still working at the church during the pandemic when their positions are not considered essential? Father Joe said Gretchen in needed to run the office and Jeanne is sending emails for religious education.

- Three comments were about the summer elementary education program. The comments asked why the survey was sent out again so late again this year, why the parents are being asked to develop the programming, why there are no summer service programs, and why the emails always direct parents to programming at other churches. Father Joe said Jeanne said she sends out weekly emails to parents and rarely receives a response.
- After the pandemic spread, why were the children told they no longer would get the cups in the Welcome Room and would have to instead drink from the water fountain? No response received.
- Three comments regarding the security letter. Some comments said security was not the true intent of the letter, some felt it was unwelcoming to families in religious education, and others noted the letter states all grounds which also would include the rectory and parking lot. Father Joe said it was a recommendation of the security plan. Tom Reilly said it is a problem if we cannot allow parents and grandparents to socialize and form a community during religious education. Even if it is a suggestion, we should still consider what we offer to our parishioners. He asked if Father Joe would discuss this matter with the consultant. Father Joe said no, it says that no one can enter so parents can't be there as well. Lynn Miller asked why if Blessed Trinity had the same consultant, why wasn't a letter sent out there. Father Joe said he did discuss it with Lisa Grose. He said the security plan is too large to send to the group so he will bring it to the next meeting. Father Joe will set up a meeting with the security company and Tom Reilly to discuss this matter.
- One letter was submitted regarding personal problems with the Elementary RE Director siting inappropriate discipline measure and unusual responses to the parent. Father Joe said he would discuss discipline issues with the Director.
- One comment stated they are a RE education volunteer and they are no longer going to serve because they have found the elementary RE Director to be difficult to work with.
- Is it possible for St. John's to work with surrounding churches to create a mass schedule for special needs parents and their children? It would be nice to have a daycare once a month, so parents of special needs kids could attend mass and focus on the service. It would also be nice to have occasional services or education that is specialized to the children's needs.

## VII. **Old Business**

A. **Strategic Plan Development for Volunteer Engagement**: Julia Rodemeier reported the committee had not yet met, but would be doing so prior to the next meeting. The committee intends to develop a plan to proceed and present it to the Council.

Audrey Waitkus said the strategic plan should be in line with the Archdiocese and look at the religious plan. She will forward the information the committee.

Father Joe said no members have left the church since he started two years ago. The church needs to revitalize, but there is nothing that can be done if people do not want to be involved.

Lori Udovich noted she knows multiple families that have recently left the church, but they didn't likely inform the parish that they were leaving.

B. **Fundraising Trip to Italy**: Julia Rodemeier reported the planning for the trip to Italy is currently on hold due to the coronavirus restrictions. The planning is going to take a lot of time, and she thinks it may be possible to find an agency that could provide a good price and provide the flexibility we need. She will contact agencies.

C. **SNC Presenter**: Tom Reilly said this information will be addressed through the strategic planning effort and should be taken off the agenda.

D. Feast Week (June 19-21, 2020): Father Joe does not know if we will have a feast week because of the coronavirus restrictions. All masses are cancelled until May 3rd. If it were to proceed, it would be limited to a one day celebration or three days; Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Bishop is scheduled to come on June 21st. It would be difficult to reschedule this event because the Archbishop has a very busy schedule. Lynn Justinger and Rich Tauferner had volunteered to plan the event.

VIII. **New Business**

A. St. Monica Approach: Tom Reilly asked to have this item removed from the agenda as it relates to the strategic plan.

B. Brewer Game Outing: Tom Reilly announced planning for the Brewer game is on hold due to the coronavirus restrictions.

C. Parish Emails: Father Joe said the bulletins and announcements are going out via email. They do not have emails for all parishioners, and he has asked Gretchen to reach out again to get them.

D. Catholic Life Center: Bill Rutten said the Council needs to decide whether we want to continue to contribute to the Catholic Life Center for 2021. The current contribution is about \$22,000, which is one third of the total cost.

Lynn Miller said we need to have outreach and programming. With the trip to Italy and the Brewers trip, we are starting to provide our own options for our parishioners.

Lori Udovich added the St. Anne's Society is offering many opportunities for involvement. She suggested the men in the parish do the same to rejuvenate the Holy Name Society.

Bill Rutten said we shouldn't get rid of something until we have something else in place. He suggests committees commit to hosting a couple events each year. Bill would be interested in leading the effort with his usher group. Bill Rutten made a motion to continue supporting the Catholic Life Center for 2021 and having another discussion in January next year to see if our congregation is able to come up with our own programming. Tom Reilly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. Discernment Date in May for New Pastoral Council Members: Father Joe announced the discernment for new Trustees and Pastoral Council members will need to wait until a more convenient time. He thinks it will likely be September, but it will be put back on the agenda when appropriate.

IX. **Pastor's Comments** Father Joe said he hasn't had to stop mass in 35 years and it has been difficult for him. He will not be able to bless palms this year. He asks that we this time to spend together in prayer and reading the Bible. Be safe. Happy Easter. Pray for all of us.

X. **Volunteer to Lead Opening Prayer at Next Meeting** Next meeting planned for May 19. Bill Rutten volunteered to lead the opening prayer.

XI. **Closing Prayer**

Fr Joe

Respectfully Submitted by

Lynn Miller

Secretary