

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 11, 2020

6:00 pm

### VIRTUAL MEETING via Zoom

- 1) Prayer: Karen Asta
- 2) Formation: Walter Gawlak
- 3) Review of Minutes
  - a) Move that minutes be approved, seconded, and approved.
- 4) Finance: Dave Vickers
  - a) Highlights from the Finance Council Meeting
    - i) Overall, we are in desperate times that require desperate measures, the horizon is unknown
    - ii) Preparing proposed budget for FY21, based on projecting to end of current fiscal year (ends June 30, 2020)
      - (1) The offertory is down 300K from the budget; will keep next year's estimate at lower number for collections
      - (2) Ministries and commissions held expenses in check this spring
      - (3) Applied and received Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$660,000
        - (a) \$462,000 for the school
          - (i) School used loan to pay June and July payroll and other expenses, no staff laid off
          - (ii) Had to refund families for spring's extended day care fees and prepaid lunch money
        - (b) \$198,000 for the church, for June-July payroll
      - (4) School tuition ordinarily pays teacher salaries but using PPP loan to cover salaries means tuition can help in other areas; school is facing expense increases for new tech equipment, loss of tuition revenue as some preschoolers pulled out, more requests for financial aid as other parents lost jobs
      - (5) PPP program terms initially designed to assist with up to 10 weeks of payroll/expenses, new expansion of program terms say money may be used toward up to 24 weeks of expenses; this change assures our loan can meet all terms to be converted to grant that does not need to be repaid to federal government
    - iii) Budget includes \$310,000 earmarked for capital improvement projects to be funded from dedicated monthly giving (green envelopes)
      - (1) Replace boiler in church
      - (2) Replace 2 air conditioners in church
      - (3) Columbarium expansion
    - iv) \$400,000 FY20 deficit
    - v) Proposed FY21 budget has an operating deficit of \$114,000, Finance Council will review next year's budget quarterly in light of high volatility

- vi) Will hold a Fall stewardship campaign
- 5) School Update: Kimberly Parker
  - a) Enrollment
    - i) Preschool has waiting list
  - b) What will school look like next year? Unsure at this time.
    - i) Prepping for hybrid schedule (different days)
      - (1) MW vs TR and separations
      - (2) Friday will be unified
    - ii) Limiting factors include bandwidth and camera questions
  - c) IT Specialist
  - d) 2020 graduation was held at drive-in theater
- 6) PTPO Update: Kimberly Parker
  - a) Operations are going well
  - b) Lion Laps successful fundraising will be used for purchase of several new laptops for teachers (critical for distance learning) and iPads for student usage
- 7) Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion):
  - a) Community Service: Sarah Kirk
    - i) Hot Meals - Donating money instead of food due to coronavirus concerns
    - ii) Matthew 25 is receiving more donations than normal
    - iii) Sunday Sustenance has shut down due to the coronavirus
    - iv) SALT reports ten different victories for social action
    - v) Telephone inquiries for rent and repairs assistance with OLGC, St John Neumann
    - vi) Prayer warriors taking requests
  - b) Religious Education: Walter Gawk
    - i) Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist are now available, but with limited numbers of attendees. Being held over multiple dates, with a focus on the Saturday vigil Masses
    - ii) Religious education is planning three courses of action (virtual, hybrid, regular) depending on future developments.
  - c) Community Growth: Betsy Zolper
    - i) Care for Common Home - Season of Creation (starts in September)
    - ii) Zoom planning
    - iii) M&Ms meeting with discussions on Health and Fitness via Zoom
    - iv) Pastoral Care Team cannot go to homes or Sunrise Senior Living Center
    - v) Virtual Alpha Update (Karen Asta)
      - (1) 35 registered participants for the online Alpha 3, some are couples. New participants are still being accepted; Zoom at 100 and then host will break. First video went well, but they did not break into groups for discussions
      - (2) Sept 21 being reserved for fall program, 11 weeks on Mondays
      - (3) Many would not be able to participate if it was not for Zoom. School Newsletter will promote Zoom aspect to their families.
  - d) Worship: Bob Lemieux
    - i) Liturgical ministries by parishioners on hold for most part. Recruiting of new ministers on hold.
    - ii) Communion Services well received

- iii) 5:30 pm Mass / 9:30 am Virtual / 11:00 am Communion Service for next two weeks
  - iv) Sanitation requirements
    - (1) Suggestions to improve attendance (Only 53 in first Mass)
    - (2) Need to follow the detailed procedures to set up, during, and after Mass. Second walkthrough recommendation for those involved in the service.
    - (3) Reminders to maintain social distancing - x's on the aisles?
    - (4) Bishops recommendation on sanitizing hands after given Eucharist on the tongue
      - (a) Move to the end of the line?
      - (b) People are holding back if the previous person did not receive
  - e) Youth Tom Pell
    - i) Work Camp is on schedule for June 21-25 at Turner Farm, will help build retreat center (including the installation of wheelchair access). 10 or our kids going, with 10 adults and 4 to 6 contractors. Joining with St. Luke's youth.
    - ii) Held last online Youth Ministry activities before summer. On Sunday, special blessing at 9:30 am livestream Mass for seniors/graduates. Fr. Paul will be guest speaking at a youth group meeting. Two (and a possible third) of the newly ordained priests will be coming on Wednesday for Mass and confession.
- 8) Eyes and Ears
- a) Potential methods to increase effectiveness of Eyes and Ears, especially in pandemic situation
    - i) Advertise to contact us?
    - ii) Brainstorm for future meetings
    - iii) Livestreaming Mass causes many to go to the Facebook page. Maybe posting something on Facebook, like a link, may generate more inputs.
    - iv) Use the 1145 choir page? Is it possible to tap into existing sources, such as the M&Ms, instead of creating new links.
    - v) Email via Bill McCarthy?
    - vi) Electronic Comment box on the website?
  - b) Thanks to the staff for helping parishioners feel part of the community
  - c) Information on an e-mail blast as not everyone is part of the group?
    - i) Five Things e-newsletter is an opt-in feature.
    - ii) Now a blast is not allowed
- 9) Public health perspective Elizabeth Peters
- a) It is going to be a while. Takes time for vaccine and antibodies from contracting the disease.
  - b) Keep up the social distancing
  - c) Avoid feeling "too safe"
- 10) Closing Prayer: Father Pat
- a) People want to come back. Want to avoid the flip the television.

Meeting ends 7:38

**Next Meeting: September 17, 2020**

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **Community Service**

Blood Drive: No report

CHINS: No report

Christ House: No report

English as a Second Language (ESL): No report

Gift of Peace: No report

Giving Tree / Adoption Ministry: No report

Hot Meals Team (FACETS) / Hypothermia Shelter Program: ST MARK provides hot meals to local homeless at three locations every other month through the Hot Meal Program, sponsored by FACETS. We have not been able to provide meals for the months of April and June due to COVID concerns. ST MARK has provided financial assistance to FACETS so that they can procure meals from various restaurants and distribute in lieu of ST MARK volunteers during these months. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the program served an average of 90 people a day. Now, those numbers have almost tripled with new faces joining familiar ones at the three Hot Meals distribution sites as more and more of our neighbors find themselves struggling. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume our ministry in July -- waiting to see how things evolve in the coming month.

Matthew 25: We continue to do extremely well with food/household items collected through our Matthew 25 Collection. Parishioners have been very generous. Throughout the month of May, these items have been delivered to Food For Others, St. Lucy Warehouse, FACETS and in our Pantry for the families involved in the FamilyPASS organization.

McDowell County: No report

Sunday Sustenance: Since the last update, we've had sandwich makers consisting of 6th grade RE classes, Marshall High School Octagon club and our regulars. We did not make sandwiches in March, instead we donated loaves of bread, packaged deli meat and packaged cheese. April and May were shut down for COVID.

Social Action Linking Together (SALT): SALT welcomed 67 SALT members advocates and friends of SALT to our first ever SALT Webinar! The webinar will be presented by Dr. Ralph Craft. Dr. Craft, now retired from public service, earned his PhD in political science, served in the Peace Corps, worked on the American Friends Service Committee summer projects. He is a member of SALT, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and Virginia Democracy Forward.

His presentation will examine the current level of inequality followed by offering proposals to: make Virginia a more equitable state; a state making economic equality available to all its citizens. We are posting Dr. Craft's presentation to our SALT Website.

We are busy planning a series of webinar panels to replace our successful “Richmond Wrap-ups” following the Virginia General Assembly session.

Special Alerts- Virginia - Here are the amazing 2020 legislative results for our SALT Criminal Justice & Family Services (TANF) issues—Incredibly none of our bills were “Unallotted” by the Governor Northam—All are funded as of 7-1-20:

1. Lifting the lifetime federal ban Food Stamps & TANF—includes universal coverage; no matter the charge. > The bill HB 566 has passed BOTH chambers of the state assembly and the Conference Committee & was signed by Governor Northam on 3/18/20. 😊
2. Correctional facilities; use of isolated confinement; > signed by Governor Northam 4/8/20. 😊
3. Eliminating Prisoner Medical Co-pays at \$5.00 by Delegate Patrick Hope; > Continued to 2021
4. Providing Official ID for Virginians returning from incarceration; > signed by the governor. 😊
5. Change the TANF Time Limit for Receiving Benefits; > laid on the table
6. Increase in SOS & Adjust TANF Benefits by 15% (Budget Amendment only); > signed by governor. 😊
7. School Board; Distribution of Excess Food; > signed by the governor. 😊
8. TANF Families; Education & Work; > signed by the governor. 😊
9. TANF Scholarship Pilot; > Laid on the table; &
10. TANF Family Cap;> signed by the governor. 😊

Thanksgiving Clothing Drive: Usually starts up in early August, need to work out a safe plan, or cancel.

Other Random Service Projects: We've handled multiple telephone inquiries looking for rental assistance, car repair expense assistance and utility assistance. Most have been handled in coordination with our local Parishes of OLG and St. John Neumann.

Our Homebound ministry and Sunday visits to Sunrise continue to be shut down, most likely until our State reopens into Phase 3.

There have been numerous Prayer requests of all kinds that have come to the church and sent back out to the 150+ Prayer Warrior email list. Many wonderful miracles are happening from this during this tough and trying times.

## **Religious Education**

1. Baptism. We have four private Baptisms over the Summer. Private Baptisms are with the understanding that there are no more than 10 people present, including the presider.

2. Confirmation. Our plan is to offer Confirmation on five weeknights in July, August, September and October. Because of social distancing, we can only have 20 Confirmations at a time, assuming a maximum of 10 for each family. Approximately 100 Confirmation Candidates are waiting. Father Pat will confer Confirmation as delegated by the Bishop.

3. First Eucharist. Our plan is to offer First Eucharist on Saturday Vigil Masses starting in July for the 85 waiting to receive the Sacrament.

4. RCIA. Sacraments for Julie, Rachel and Sophia will take place on June 20 at the 5:30 Mass (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

5. Religious Education. We are developing plans for 2020-2021 RE using models of in-class, at-home and hybrid learning. Preparation of an online RE registration form is underway. We will offer homeschool again and plan to see more families take advantage of that option.

6. VBS. We will be holding a Virtual Vacation Bible School from July 14-17. The theme is Communities of God's Kingdom, focusing on the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. The audience is rising K-5th grade. Fifteen adults and teens are working to make this a success.

7. Bible Study. Fifteen adults are participating in a virtual Bible study on "The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy."

8. Adult Faith Formation. Jean is continuing to offer adult faith formation opportunities to adults in the parish virtually.

9. Prayer. In July and August, Jean plans to lead groups (adults and children) via Zoom in prayer using "Praying in Color" by Sybil MacBeth. Dates/times TBD

### **Community Growth**

Always Our Children: No June update.

Bakers for Funerals: Cannot have receptions.

Bereavement: We are shut down until September, planning another bereavement program starting in September.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH) – Held a Zoom meeting yesterday. Working on the Season of Creation program focused on water – life giving and life sustaining. Adopt a Highway application has been submitted. A member has suggested adding native plants to the St Mark landscape. Finally, the USCCB has given strong support to the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This act puts a small fee on fossil fuel producers to incentivize replacement of fossil fuels with renewables. Every household would receive a monthly dividend check to offset the increased cost of fossil fuels. Last Sunday's bulletin has more information.

Christians in Commerce (CIC): No June update. The local men's chapter of Christians in Commerce meets every Wednesday morning from 7 to 8 am in the Choir room, for prayer, teaching and small group discussion about living out our Christian faith in the workplace. All men are welcome. Coffee and donuts. Access is through the rear door.

Ecumenical Bereavement Ministry through the Becky Love Foundation (BLF): Plans to resume on the 3rd Tuesday of September, if the ST MARK school is open and meeting space available.

Evangelist Ministry - Alpha: Alpha program resumed last night, June 10th via Zoom. Sign-up available in bulletin.

Funeral Receptions: No June update.

Knights of Columbus (Santa Maria Council): No June update.

Le Cercle Francais: Continues to meet via Zoom every Tuesday from 10 to 12 and converse en Francais.

MOMs Ministry: No June update.

Movie Night: No June update.

Newcomer's Committee: No June update. Our next luncheon is planned for Sunday, October 18th.

Pastoral Care Team (PACT): We cannot allow our Eucharistic Ministers to visit with our elderly homebound parishioners until we are cleared by the State/Bishop. Same thing goes for our weekly service/visit with the many folks at Sunrise Retirement Home in Oakton. St. Mark PACT ministers continue with the next best thing – calling to visit via phone.

Prayer Requests: Prayer Requests – We continue to receive many prayer requests that are sent out to our 150+ prayer volunteers. Folks are extremely appreciative of the availability of this form of prayer!

Peace and Justice Committee (PJC): No June update.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: If anyone knows of a person who would benefit from a prayer shawl the shawls are available. There is a container outside the office door.

Praying College Moms (PCM): No June update.

Pro-Life Committee (PLC): No June update.

Remembrance Ministry: We continue to contact bereaved members of our parish and we also continue to seek new members.

Senior Ministry (M&Ms): hosted their second Zoom meeting last week with Rebecca Pick and Dcn. Leo talking about their pilgrimage to Medjugorje last August. Interesting trip and nice pictures. Best part is SEEing each other while we are listening and learning. Dana Rizzo, RN is giving us her presentation on the 17th about health issues and fitness. We won't host the barbeque at Joe Kolasch this summer. May wait until October Fest to gather the M&Ms for our "summer" barbeque. Everyone just wants to be safe and well before we gather as a group. We may continue the zoom meetings for as long as we can arrange for folks to talk to us!!! It's just been nice to see and catch up with each other.

Small Communities of Faith: No June update.

Soup and Stations: Paused

Welcome and Information Desk: No June update.

## **Worship**

Worship Commission Ministries. Most of the Worship Commission ministries continue to be on hold. The Altar Guild, Liturgical Art, and Candle ministries continue to provide support as needed. All others are standing by to serve. Under the current phase guidance and practice, it will be a while before many of the others - Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Choirs - are active.

Communion Services. Three communion services have been held and have been extremely successful thanks to the Parish staff and some volunteers. Each week has provided a learning experience which improved the following week's service. Thankfully we have been blessed with gorgeous weather!

Mass. On-line Masses will continue to be held until no further needed. The first public weekend Mass since March was held Saturday, June 6. Fifty-three people attended including the twenty volunteers. It is wonderful to celebrate Mass publicly again! We will continue the same schedule (Sat. 5:30 PM Mass, Sun. 9:30 AM live-stream Mass, 11 AM Communion service) for the next two weekends, June 13/14 & June 20/21. We will need volunteers in order to have more Masses in the future - contact the Parish Office or send me an email to Laura – she is creating a list. We are still weeks from anything resembling normal scheduling. The Worship Commission will be discussing what the next steps are and will be in touch with the parish soon.

## **Youth**

Jr. High Highlights:

- Jr. High Virtual Afternoons have continued every Friday afternoon at 4 pm with about 10 or so youth in attendance thru ZOOM. I am following the Diocesan policies having another compliant adult in the conference at all times plus recording it. To prevent ZOOM bombing, I invite everyone to join in the waiting room and I accept them into the conference to verify each of them. I turn off chat and lock the room after 15 minutes. Nancy Weaver is my co leader since 2 adults must be online at all times.
- I plan to have weekly Friday Jr. High Afternoons thru May and have turned Eric's old office into a small studio complete with a green background for fun.
- Steubenville Conferences have been canceled, but Fr. Thompson is thinking of an alternative at Bishop O'Connell HS. Steubenville will live stream the general sessions with talks, but Fr. Thompson wants a live Mass, Adoration, local band (The Restless) and Confession. He is working out the details.

High School Highlights:

- WorkCamp is moving forward! We will be working at Turner Farm to complete a retreat center there, which will include a chapel, wheelchair-accessible path and small reflection pond. We will be joined by St. Luke parish, and will have ten adult leaders and 5-6 contractors between our two parishes. The camp will take place June 21st- 25th.
- We have had HS Zoom Sunday nights that began on Divine Mercy Sunday and have continued since then. There is an average of 10-12 youth in attendance with Tom Pell and myself as adult leaders. Last Sunday's meeting included fun Zoom games and a reflection video from Jackie and Bobby Angel (two

Catholic speakers with Ascension Presents) about Pentecost. Father Paul will be joining us at the next meeting.

- We will be honoring the high school seniors this weekend with a blessing after either Saturday Mass or the Sunday communion service. They will be wearing their caps and gowns.

#### College Highlights:

- Yearly College Night is set for July 9th, if things return to normal. Last June's college night was very well attended. It was set for June 17th, but pushed back for obvious reasons.

#### Young Adult:

- Ben Porter, Tom Pell and Courtney Earll are using ZOOM to virtually meet with other young adults and advertising these virtual meetings on FB, the bulletin and flyers. We had our first in-person meeting last Friday! There were six in attendance. We went to adoration in the main church, and played socially distanced bingo afterward.