

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2020

6:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING via Zoom

Prayer: Rafael Gil-Figueroa

Formation: Everyone shared what they do to continue practicing their faith during this time.

Review of Minutes Motioned for approval by Bob, seconded by Betsy. Approved as submitted.

School Update: **Kasey Miller (for Kimberly Parker)**

Continuing to teach through online/distance learning. Still planning socially-distanced graduation on June 8 at drive-in theater, Stephens City; other special celebrations to recognize the 8th graders. Planning professional development for teachers this summer on hybrid teaching models. Preparing for continued online schooling in the fall, if that happens.

PTPO Update: **Kortney Roth**

Brainstorming for 2020-21 given likelihood of continued pandemic conditions. Considering spiritwear and other fundraising in this environment.

Finance: **Andrea Kramer**

Increase in people signing up to contribute through Faith Direct. Overall monthly donations are lower, but not as low as feared and partially offset by increasing charitable distributions from parishioners' retirement accounts. Completed capital improvement projects in April (automated HVAC controllers in church, energy efficient lighting initiative throughout facilities), planning for more in 2020-21 including replacing air conditioners and boiler for church and columbarium expansion.

Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion): Written reports received Tuesday of week of meeting

- a. Community Service: Sarah Kirk (for George McAndrews) - food donations for the needy have been strong.
- b. Religious Education: Walter Gawlak - First Eucharist and Confirmation liturgies all postponed, new dates are TBD. Preparing for RE in the fall, waiting to know conditions at that time.
- c. Community Growth: Betsy Zolper - Many groups are still going strong virtually, Alpha 3 will be virtual. Pastoral Care Team staying in contact with the homebound via phone calls as in-person visits not safe. Laudato Si's fifth anniversary is this week, special materials from the USCCB will be shared via the bulletin.
- d. Worship: Bob Lemieux - Candlestick holders are being remade by a parishioner. Weddings being cancelled/delayed, recruiting and training of new liturgical ministers on hold. Virginia's reopening does not include Fairfax County yet, so we continue with livestreaming Mass and awaiting guidance from the diocese.
- e. Youth: Tom Pell - Groups still going strong virtually. Steubenville Conference cancelled, high school work camp changing format. College night set for July 9.

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Old Business:**New Business:**

Betsy raised need of St. Lucy Project for young people as drivers; Tom will follow-up with Kevin Flores about this.

Eyes and Ears:

The bulletin doesn't note the livestreaming of Mass and there's no signage at Vale Road about it; Bob will follow-up with Laura Cooman about this. People who have been in our buildings note that lighting is much brighter now, from the green lighting initiative. Karen suggested promoting in the bulletin that the Pastoral Council meetings are now on Zoom, so parishioners could join us.

Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Next Meeting: June 11, 2020

Community Service Commission Report

No written report this month.

Religious Education Commission Report

1. We had one private Baptism in April; there is one scheduled in May and one scheduled in June. Private Baptisms are with the understanding that there are no more than 10 people present, including Fr. Pat.
2. The Bishop has delegated conferral of Confirmation to Fr. Pat for Baptized Catholics. When things open up again in Virginia, we will schedule Confirmations for the 8th graders, two HS teens and one adult. The same holds true for conferring Sacraments for the Elect.
3. We were not able to have First Eucharist ceremonies this month, so again when things open up again in VA, we will reschedule First Eucharist ceremonies, perhaps spread out over a longer period of time.
4. Religious Education - At the recommendation of Fr. Saunders, the Episcopal Vicar for Faith Formation, we are preparing for three scenarios in the fall:
 - a. Distance Learning
 - b. Classroom learning
 - c. Combination of a and b.
5. We will be holding a Virtual Vacation Bible School for three days during the week it was originally scheduled (July 13-17, 2020). The theme is now Communities of God's Kingdom, focusing on the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. Many of the stations will be run by our youth online, under the supervision of the parents. We will have an hour each day for the rising 1-3rd graders for three days. There will be no preschool or Kindergarten age participating. The older children, grades 4 and 5, will run about 90 minutes for three days. There will be crafts, songs, movement and Bible stories.
6. Jean is contacting all Catechists to thank them and get their feedback on the Religious Education year.
7. Thirteen people will be participating in a virtual Bible study starting virtually on May 21 - "The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy."

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8. Youth Ministry and RE staff have been coming to the Office Monday through Friday from 10am-5pm since mid-March. This is reasonable because there are only three people in the RE/YM Office.

9. A Virtual Bible Study of Isaiah, Part II went virtual in March and ended in April.

10. Jean is continuing to offer adult faith formation opportunities to adults in the parish virtually.

Community Growth Commission Report

Always Our Children: met for the final scheduled meeting of this ministry year last May 4th via Zoom. We had a good discussion on the recent article in the Herald about the diocesan group, Courage, a support group for LGBT folks and its value for some members of that community. The Zoom meeting was enjoyed by all who met, so we decided that we would plan another meeting in mid-summer, which we will promote by way of the **ST MARK** website.

Bakers for Funerals: Cannot have receptions.

Bereavement: No May update.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH) – Held a Zoom meeting yesterday. To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the encyclical Laudato Si', Pope Francis has invited Catholics to participate in Laudato Si' week, a nine day global campaign from May 16th to May 24th. Go to this [link](#) for USCCB materials. Some materials will be shared via **ST MARK** Facebook and from the diocese to people who receive peace and justice emails.

Christians in Commerce (CIC): No May 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): The Becky Love Foundation 5K and 1K are rescheduled for June 13.

Evangelist Ministry - Alpha: The Alpha Team will be meeting via Zoom during May to plan for continuing Alpha Sessions. Our next step is to invite those members of our parish who have not yet attended Alpha. We, plan to meet with the PTPO to invite the parents of all children in our school. Then we will meet with the parents of children in our RE program to invite them. Alpha I was very successful in drawing 110 people and Alpha II drew 65. Please encourage all members of the Council to attend who have not yet attended.

Funeral Receptions: No May update.

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

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

MOMs Ministry: No May update.

Movie Night: No May update.

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

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Pastoral Care Team (PACT): PACT ministers have not been allowed to visit our Parishioners, or Sunrise Retirement Home, since the shutdown. However, the PACT ministers continue contact with them through phone calls. One actually still visits a homebound Parishioner every Sunday, and converses with her through a window in the living room...very sweet!!

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

Prayer Requests: Bill maintains a list of 150 people that he emails when prayer requests are made. Bill welcomes new members to this group.

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 May update.

Pro-Life Committee (PLC): reports that the Mass of Remembrance for the unborn was cancelled. Despite Covid19 the Spring 40 Days For Life had 507 cities participate. Toward the end of the campaign public prayer events were converted to private prayer. There were 484 confirmed babies saved. The total for all 40 Days For Life campaigns are 17,226 lives saved, 107 abortion centers closed and 206 abortion workers quit. The next campaign will be from September 23, 2020 until November 1, 202

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

Senior Ministry (M&Ms): had their first zoom meeting hosted by Ron Wilgenbusch on May 6th. John Allen talked to us about scripture and some history. Great presentation, a few of us stayed and visited with each other with zoom. Nice way to "see" each other again. Bill McCarthy, is going to host the next 3 M&M Zoom meetings. Elena King will give us a presentation on vitamins and more on May 20th; Rebecca Pick will be giving us a presentation on the 3rd of June about her trip to Medjugorje last summer and Dana Rizzo, RN, and also a parishioner will be talking via zoom to us on June 17th about different health issues. Joe Kolasch has tentatively planned his summer barbeque for August 1st or 8th. We still have ideas for the fall if we are able to travel via bus and DC is open again. So the Zoom meeting has been good to keep in touch while we are all in isolation.

Small Communities of Faith: No May update.

Soup and Stations: Paused

Welcome and Information Desk: No May update.

Worship Commission Report

Training and Commissioning. Lector and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), altar servers and associated recruiting, training and commissioning/installations remain on hold.

Streaming Masses. Laura, Denise and many others continue to support Father Pat for weekly Masses. The Alter Guild, as always, does a great job providing clean linen – corporals, purifiers, etc. – for Masses.

Candle Team. Ron Wilgenbush is creating new chapel candlestands. The current stands are worn and do not hold the candles straight or firmly.

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Wedding Team. The May 30 wedding canceled and the two weddings scheduled for June 6 are awaiting further decisions.

Sacraments. RCIA Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation, and First Eucharist are all delayed and will need to be rescheduled. There are 83 children receiving First Eucharist and 113 receiving Confirmation.

Youth Commission Report

Jr. High Highlights:

- Since before Easter, we have had Jr. High Virtual Afternoons 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 changing into per parish project. Sarah Kirk has suggested some projects on Turner Farms in Great Falls for the WorkCampers to work on during the week of June 21 thru 26.
- 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. Mother's Day was a hit with 5 of the youth inviting their moms to join them. We played a version of the "Newlywed Game" where I asked questions to moms separately and then the youth separately and then brought them together to match answers.

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. May and the summer months are being planned. The last First Friday ZOOM had about ten in attendance; we prayed a Rosary together and then played some online games, such as Pictionary. We are still having new members join each time.

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