

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 23, 2021

6:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING via ZOOM

- Prayer: Pam Burke
- Introduction of the new members to the Council
- Formation: Tom Brownell
- Review of Minutes
  - Motion to approve minutes, seconded, and passed.
- School Update: Kimberly Parker
  - Karen Asta has joined the PTPO leadership.
  - Care for our Common Home and the 3rd Grade are finishing their project, which will include having Father Cilinski visit to bless the Mary Garden.
  - Volunteers for school are being sought. Needed: library book shelving, reading to students, lunch volunteers, recess volunteers. Please contact the school for further information. All volunteers need to be VIRTUS compliant.
  - Enrollment has risen from 347 (the year Ms. Parker started) to last year's 369 to this year's 386 students. These numbers include preschool students.
  - Information on the website is to include student support services:
    - Resource program
    - The Evangelist program is being strengthened, not being reduced.
    - 54 students are in student support, with eight at the highest level. There is one employee with special needs, and one under consideration for employment at this time.
- PTPO Update: Christiane Popperwell
  - The Dining for Dollars event at Chipotle earned \$1,000 for the school. There were some delays and frustration at the event due to the short window of opportunity.
  - The next event, at the SouvlakiBar, will be spread over 2 nights from 12-8 pm

- The online auction raised more than 529 pounds of food for the Food for Others program
- Supplies for the school nurse have been ordered
- Enrichment programming music anti-bullying
- Trunk or Treats is scheduled for October 28, with pizza available for delivery
- Finance: Tom Brownell
  - 2021 ended June 30; with the parish ending the year in black and with three months in reserves. St. Mark parishioners have remained generous throughout. The federal Paycheck Protection Program funds were approved to be changed from a loan to a grant.
  - FY22 Is being closely monitored. Collections are remaining steady, and the annual stewardship campaign is under discussion.
  - Recommendations on Capital improvements include:
    - Floor in church
    - Pews in church: Some repairs are underway. There is debate whether to replace the pews or repair them; some of the pews are original and are 55 years old. Desire to minimize the disruption of worship.
    - New piano
    - Sound system
    - Pavers in front of church
    - Funding exists for these projects, and money will not be taken from contributions.
    - The bathrooms are not under immediate consideration.
  - School finances are in the black. The Paycheck Protection Program funds were turned into a grant. There will be some Increases in tuition. Strong staff efforts are keeping expenses down. Enrollment is at the maximum allowed (21 per class).
- Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion):
  - Community Service: Theresa Croson
    - No updates or questions
  - Religious Education: Andrea Kramer
    - No updates or questions

- Community Growth:     Betsy Zolper
  - Praying College Moms are having hybrid meetings. Future meetings are on a to be determined status due to covid concerns
  - Care for Our Common Home garden: 3rd graders are planting Jacob's ladders and other indigeneous plants. There will be a rock rosary and a statue of Mary. Part of *Laudato Si* Seven Year Action Plan, endorsed by Bishop Burbidge.
- Worship:                     Pam Burke
  - Mask wearing policy? We follow the Diocesan rules, which follow the CDC guidelines. Everyone is welcome whether they wear a mask or not.
  - EMs and the Sanitizers masking: it is suggested, but it is not mandatory. Some are opting to wear masks only when serving on the altar.
  - Processional cross: some altar servers/ushers have trouble with the cross due to its weight. No modifications are planned, and we will need to find people to carry it. The history of our cross is being written as it has connections to our first pastor, Fr. Culkin.
  - New altar servers are being recruited. Some altar servers have access problems getting to different Masses as they are too young to drive. The overall goal is to serve once a month.
  - Two versus three masses on Sunday: No discussions at this point, as the church still has plenty of room with present participation levels.
- Youth:                     Sarah Kirk
  - No updates or questions
- Old Business
  - Communications guide approved and staff is preparing for internal dissemination.
- New Business:
  - The Newcomers Luncheon has been cancelled.
  - Donut Sunday hosted by PC, Sunday, November 14, 9:45 to 11:00 am CAC
- Eyes and Ears:

- Technology Support for Meetings
  - Christians in Commerce - seeking better Internet access for those participating via Zoom.
  - Care for Our Common Home - St. John Neumann meeting uses a projector and presentation format. The benefits are excellent.
  - Is there an option for meeting in CFC classrooms with Smart Boards and their Internet access? Cassidy Activity Center is spotty in terms of wifi coverage.
    - Using the CFC will create cleaning crew problems. With more meetings, an additional crew scheduling will be required.
    - People in Alpha or CinC with a computer background would like to help find out how much it would cost to improve the wifi network to get the system operating at acceptable levels. They are checking with Crystal to see about the next steps (cost, availability, etc).
- The 11:45 am choir (now 11:00 am) is delighted to be back.
- Alpha series for the parents is being promoted. Kids go to RE, parents to Alpha, then all go to Mass.
- Closing Prayer: Father Pat
  - Anniversary of Padre Pio

Meeting ends at 7:14 pm

Next Meeting: October 21, 2021 via ZOOM