

Church of St Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes December 3, 2020 - 6:30 pm - Zoom

Attending: Fr Paul Kammen-Pastor, John Wollersheim-Trustee, Ann Volkert-Chair, Fay Connors, Paul Germann, Mike Vanderheyden, Ron Sailer, John Murphy
Randy Haney-Administrator
Absent: Jon Guden – Vice Chair

Opening Prayer

Paul Germann

1. Communications w/Staff & Committee Updates

Ron Sailer spoke with Bill Bradley. Currently numbers of parishioners coming back to weekend Mass have been down the last 2-3 weeks by an average of 100 per weekend. There is minor concern with a limit of 250 for mass, that some attempting to attend one of the Christmas masses may be turned away and asked to come back to a later mass time. Some parishes have begun reserving spaces for select masses. St. Joe's has made the decision to not do that.

It is hoped that the current means of communication being used will alert all parishioners of this limit. Because of COVID, they do still have the option of watching the live streamed mass from home.

Paul Germann spoke about school activities. The recent "Give to the Max" day had a goal of bringing in \$12,000. As of this meeting the amount received was over \$15,000 with the help of some matching grants.

The annual school gala will be held in February. It will be an all virtual event.

The Christmas Program will be virtual with grades filming their respective parts separately. Upon return from the Christmas break students will be distance learning the first week back. This is being done in an effort to reduce the potential spread of the COVID virus from those who may have been exposed to people with the virus during holiday gatherings

Randy mentioned that a number of applications for the Pastoral Care and Parish Life Ministries positions have been received. It is hoped that an interview can be arranged with a couple of the candidates within the next week or two. It is hoped that the positions can be filled with a tentative start date after the first of January.

If there is any positive coming out of COVID, it is that several of the ministries (like Befrienders) have been unable to function so the need for the positions to be filled hasn't been quite as urgent.

2. New Business

Ann spoke about concerns regarding those parishioners who are more shut in and are lacking enough social interaction due to COVID. The Archdiocese has issued a directive that no one from parishes in an official role (Befrienders) can enter homes right now.

Randy did mention that the office has received a number of calls that the staff has been handling. He acknowledged that people just wanted to talk to someone. These calls would be better handled by a ministry serving them. Once the two positions are filled, these types of calls will be directed there.

When COVID did begin the parish made a list of those over 70 years of age and those over 60. Calls were made to these parishioners in April and May to see how they were doing. About 25% of the names on the list were actually contacted. The feedback was they really appreciated hearing from someone.

3. Old Business

Ann mentioned that there is an individual who has expressed interest in the council position. He would join if no other interest was shown. Since none has been shown, it was decided that Ann should invite this individual to contact Father and he will be approved for the open position.

Ann drafted language that is to be added to the bylaws that provides more clarity when there are open positions for the Parish Pastoral Council resulting from something other than the normal expiration of a member's term. The language was voted on and approved.

A discussion took place about how dissemination of the Synod Survey results would be given to the parish at large. Before any decision is made Fay and Jon will be given access to Synod information from the top 3 parishes (based on survey results). Once that information has been reviewed. A plan of how the information will be presented will be brought back to the council for review. It is hoped that it will be accomplished in time for the January meeting. introduced at the November meeting.

4. Parish and Financial Updates

Randy indicated that The October financials for the parish went to the Finance Council and he was pleased that the parish is so far "holding its own".

He said that every 5 years all parishes are required to go through a AUP audit. St. Joe's was started last month. He received a preliminary version of the audit results and things look good. Once complete the council will be supplied with a copy.

The solar panels are now being installed, which is the last phase of the project. About 15% are in. Randy is hopeful that the parish will begin to see electricity being generated by the panels by mid-December. The Catholic Spirit was out taking photos of the construction and an article about the project will be appearing in an upcoming issue.

Randy was interviewed on Relevant Radio 1330AM on October 16th. People should be able to find the interview within the website.

Closing Prayer

Paul Germann

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Next meeting Thursday, January 7th, 2020 6:30pm via Zoom

Prayerfully submitted,

Mike Vanderheyden
Recorder