

## **Church of St Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes November 5, 2020 - 6:30 pm - Room 101**

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

### **Opening Prayer**

**Fay Connors**

#### **1. Communications w/Staff & Committee Updates**

Ron Sailor spoke with Bill Bradley. Currently numbers of parishioners coming back to weekend Mass are approximately: Saturday 5pm-125; Sunday 7am-40, 8:30am-150 and 10:30am-200.

Father Paul indicated that the Christmas Mass schedule will be Christmas Eve 2:00pm; 4:00pm; 7:00pm and 10:00pm. Christmas Day 8:30 and 10:30.

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at 8:30am.

During the season of Advent there will be a Reconciliation Service on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Positions are currently open for Pastoral Care and Parish Life Ministries. Some duties previously handled within the Pastoral Care area may be divided up among other staff members.

#### **2. New Business**

Ann spoke about the steps currently being taken to fill the empty Parish Pastoral Council position. An announcement was published in this past week's bulletin.

She asked, and recommended, that language be amended in the bylaws as it is currently vague about exactly who has responsibility for finding, vetting and appointing any replacement candidate to the PPC when vacancies occur outside of normal term expirations. A discussion ensued and Ann will draft some language for consideration at the next meeting that will align the PPC efforts to seek a replacement and including ultimate approval belonging to Father.

Ann then gave an update on activities of the Lay Advisory Board, which is a body made up of representatives from all parishes in the archdiocese. This group meets approximately six times annually. This group operates within the framework of existing "deaneries".

Representatives from the deaneries meet with the archbishop and his representatives on a regular basis to discuss ways to help foster and improve the catholic faith journey. The overriding emphasis right now, because of COVID, is the need for improved methods of communication and messages more aligned with today's challenges faced by society.

John Wollersheim mentioned that the Pine Bend Cemetery was in need of someone to take over. It is very small and the men who currently care for it are old and wish to step down. A

short discussion took place about perhaps involving students who need community hours via service projects, in an effort to provide needed maintenance assistance.

### **3. Old Business**

A discussion took place, led by Fay, regarding the Synod Survey results introduced at the November meeting. Observations consistently made were that St. Joseph's falls short in every key metric measured in the survey dealing with a parishioner's faith journey and the parish's ability to be a positive and relevant force in it. These results were measured against not only the top parishes in the archdiocese but even average scores for parishes within the archdiocese.

A question was raised about an opportunity to determine who the top parishes were and if that information was available, perhaps we could have dialog with them to determine the differences of operation, and then discern which operational items may be available for implementation within St. Joseph's.

While the results showed that the task ahead to reclaim a relevant place within the lives of all parishioners is daunting, the group is committed to taking the steps necessary to effect change, even if it is in small steps.

As part of the Strategic Planning Committee, Jon Guden provided an update on where things are currently. After a series of meetings with both staff, Fr. Paul and Randy, it appears that there is consensus in the need for two documents. A one page document to be made available to the public and a more comprehensive document that provides a framework from which annual goals and strategies can be formulated. The next iteration of this process will be created and presented for further review by select committee members and Father and Randy prior to the next Council meeting.

### **4. Parish and Financial Updates**

Randy indicated that continued giving was better than anticipated, in light of the fact that we have had to deal with COVID and significantly reduced chances for the church congregation to visit. That coupled with the generosity of several parish members has allowed the parish to operate pretty much status quo. However, the long-term trend is that fewer members as a percentage of the entire parish population are contributing and those who are contributing are giving more. It is a trend that is not sustainable.

The solar panel project is close to being on schedule for completion. The latest estimate is that it should be fully operational by the end of November.

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

### **Closing Prayer**

**Fay Connors**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Next meeting Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:30pm, Room 101

**Prayerfully submitted,**

**Mike Vanderheyden  
Recorder**