St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish Council Meeting
Monday, May 17th @ 7:30pm

In attendance: Fr. Jay, Kevin Sullivan, Nancy Dunn, Chris Andrews, Dawn Andrews, Jim Donick, Andy Igoe, Michele Igoe,
Kurt Schollmeyer, Barbara Schollmeyer, Roger Hof, Amy Rickard, Val Mahler.

Kevin led with opening prayer taken from Julianne Stanz's **Start With Jesus** and asked that prayers be offered for the mother of a council member who recently underwent surgery (and to pray for that family as well). The usual staff/committee updates were not done as it was expected that significant time would be spent discussing the welcome back ideas at this meeting.

Covid Update from the Diocese:
Fr. Jay read the Archdiocese communication stating masks and social distancing still apply. Guidelines for houses of worship are not yet available, so for now, there are no changes in parish procedures. Further clarification is expected soon.

Congratulations, Appreciation and Thanks:
☐ Nancy and Deacon John Dunn on their retirement after 20+ years of faithful and devoted service to St. Stanislaus, cake/coffee after meeting to celebrate
☐ Kevin and Marge Sullivan for their many years of leadership, devotion and service and as they prepare for their move in June
☐ Andy and Michele Igoe for organizing a very productive St. Joseph's cleanup day

Kevin read the heartwarming card from Mary Angela Boyle thanking the parish for the Mass card sent to her family when her mother died. This is just one example of how reaching out to touch people individually is so important.

Restarting/Renewing our Parish Post COVID-19:
Kevin: The initial *Welcome Back* group meeting on April 26th was productive with enthusiastic dialogue and ideas for how we can welcome back parishioners post Covid and revitalize our church. Maria DeWald and Val Mahler developed a summary document of suggestions and ideas from the group which was distributed to everyone. This summary is a first step: much

work remains to agree on which actions we need to take as a parish, the right timeline to take them, and who will be involved in implementation.
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A few key points in the summary were discussed:
☐ Vision and mission with clear communication to the parish
☐ Promote and maintain a celebratory tone
☐ Survey and listen to what is needed, reasons for not returning to Mass, etc.
☐ Make it personal with a message of concern and compassion. Nancy suggested having people tell their story of what motivated them to volunteer as an example.

Start With Jesus:
Fr. Jay: Our faith has suffered during Covid and now is the opportunity to create the type of parish we want to be part of. **Start With Jesus** is leading us in that direction.

Kevin: Our homework assignment was to read **Start WithJesus** and watch the webinar by Prenger Solutions, the consultant for the Diocese. As the book explains, we can only capture the enthusiasm and fire needed to rebuild our parish through a personal relationship with Jesus. The webinar took a more nuts and bolts approach with a calendar and five different activities filling in things we can and should be doing to restart.

Further discussion on touching people personally:
☐ communication using Flocknotes, Facebook and the bulletin to send out informational, inspirational and positive messages to people
☐ healing Mass for people who have died of Covid is another way to remember and touch people personally
☐ Tree of Hope to emphasize the positivity and hope in our lives through the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his promise of salvation
☐ Revitalize the prayer basket and replan a trip to Sight & Sound Theater for fall.

Fr. Jay: We will need people in different ministries as things open up. During Covid, Father was only permitted to go into the nursing home for anointing of the sick. However, now he can go into the chapel again but must continue to be tested twice a week. There is a need now for people who would be willing to help. Fr. Jay acknowledged the support of people throughout the parish during Covid, financial support, food donations, etc. Now we need to build on

this as we have an opportunity with the new Eastdale community and people moving up from New York City.

Jim: It was good to see a very welcoming flavor with the revised bulletin format, we should incorporate that welcoming concept into everything we do. The chain is down from the front entrance to the church and now we hope to get the front doors open soon as a welcome sign.

Kurt: Some people are ready to move forward without Covid protocol and others are still extremely fearful. How do we bring these groups together, let people vent and move forward in a positive way? People want to pray before and after Mass, how can we better accommodate this? Can we tell people how the seating protocols work and let them seat themselves? Let's do the survey and ask people how they feel about coming back to church.

Nancy: Could we seat two in one pew at each end? Upon discussion, it seems this would not meet the 6 ft. social distancing protocol.

Kurt: While the Covid situation is better during the summer, it is possible that as we go into fall and winter we may have to ramp up precautions again.

Fr. Jay: We have maintained precautions as best as possible and, therefore, we've been fortunate that we've not had to close our church like some churches have.

Andy: We need more volunteer ushers, need the youth to be more involved as witnessed on Sunday when the children helped with ushering. They were extremely excited and enthusiastic about this. The same small group of people cannot keep doing the majority of the work: we need to involve more parishioners as volunteers. Kevin noted that on a recent visit to his son's parish, two young parishioners were helping their Dad with ushering and with the offertory collection. The youths were so proud and happy to be helping. We should involve families and youth more in this manner.

The next *Welcome Back* group meeting is scheduled for <u>Monday, May 24th at 7:30pm</u>. Parish Council members are encouraged to attend.

The next Parish Council meeting will be scheduled for late September.