

St. Mary, Vinton
Pastoral Council Minutes
May 12, 2020 via Zoom

The Heart of Mary Cluster, inspired by the Holy Spirit, provides a welcoming faith community in which we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by the way we live, by our worship together and in serving others.

- I. Present: Cindy Forsyth, Danise Shannon, Stacey Happel, Jeannie Springer, Marcia Reilly, Billy Ollinger, JR Schemmel, Melissa Tandy, Jim Mott
Absent: Rhonda Happel
- II. Prayer: Prayer for an end to a pandemic
- III. Approval of minutes – March 10th meeting minutes were approved
- IV. Minutes from standing committees: Finance minutes from 4/23 were sent out just prior to meeting, will cover most of that content in PLC report
- V. Additions to agenda: none

Old Business

- I. Status of LOWTF giving -- Jeannie
 - a. Total Pledged: \$1,079,859
 - b. Total received \$1,059,058; 98% of all pledges have been collected.
 - c. We still have \$147,000 to pay off. The payoff deadline is fiscal year 2023.
 - d. Total interest paid thus far is \$50,187.
 - e. Due to the suspension of Mass the monthly \$1500 payment on the debt from the general fund has been suspended
- II. Building & Grounds -- Cindy
 - a. Will resume painting when able to be back in church. Will use what paint is left and what we are able to purchase with the KC's donation.
 - b. Spring Clean Up will be rescheduled. Cindy has a list started. She will continue to add to it.
 - i. The grounds have been picked up in preparation for mowing. The trash has been cleaned up and the bushes trimmed
- III. Sanctuary Arrangement—Marcia, Billy
 - a. New arrangement was approved by both Fr Jim and the Archbishop. Gerry Ries donated the funds for both the new presider and deacon chairs.

- IV. Safety in Worship spaces—Billy ☺
 - a. The KCs have a committee for this, but due to COVID have not been able to meet.
- V. Iowa Ride: has been cancelled for 2020

New Business

- I. PLC Report:
 - a. Pastoral council and FFC elections
 - i. Extension of terms: all have agreed to extend their term
 - ii. Election of officers for 2020-2021: It was agreed that Melissa Tandy would be Chair, Cindy Forsyth Vice-Chair; and Stacey Happel Secretary
 - b. Finances:
 - i. Weekly collection: given that we are not meeting for Mass we are doing okay with donations at this time. More people are donating electronically. Many of these people have set up recurring donations. There are also some people who have been giving more than they normally would. Marcia is planning to reach out to those people with letters of gratitude for their generosity.
 - ii. Paycheck Protection Program- fortunate to be able to benefit from this program. Covers payroll for 2.5 months. Of this 75% must be used toward salaries. The other 25% can be used for utilities and interest on loans. Anna and Melvin were laid off for a period, but thanks to this program they have been able to come back and do things as needed.
 - iii. Annual Appeal: was scheduled for May; however, given the potential hardships we will suspend this. The archdiocese is also suspending special appeals at this time, including ArchdioceseOne.
 - iv. We have received donations from parishioners specifically to assist those experiencing hardship. If you know of anyone who is struggling as a result of the pandemic (job loss, etc.), please let Marcia know.
 - c. Liturgy:
 - i. Possible changes: when we are able to meet again, which at this time that date is unknown, there will be guidelines in place for what we can and cannot do. Currently it is looking like we will have to abide by social distancing and all parishioners will have to wear masks. Other likely changes include: no distribution from the cup, hosts will be distributed in the hand only – not on the tongue, refrain from shaking/holding hands, the holy water fonts/stoops will remain empty. Have talked about opening the church for personal prayer...working on a plan for this as it would require monitoring the number of people in the church at one time and sanitizing pews and common areas (door handles, bathrooms, etc.) after people leave.
 - ii. Weddings: no receptions
 - iii. Funerals: no luncheons

- d. Faith Formation during pandemic:
 - i. First communion prep: retreat for the Vinton students occurred prior to social distancing. Further work has been sent out for families to work through with their children. Waiting on scheduling Mass(es).
 - ii. Zoom meetings: for middle and high school this seemed to work well
 - iii. On-line resources: trying to find sources to help navigate on-line RE. Looking toward a plan for possible on-line education in the fall. May be possible to have class sessions where the limit is 10 people (teacher included)
- e. Events postponed: First communion and baccalaureate – will reschedule once public Masses are allowed to resume.
- f. Totus Tuus: cancelled; looking at possibility of an online VBS program
- g. Communications—including Notes of Kindness- lots of notes have been sent. Marcia has also been calling members, mostly over the age of 70, just to check in and see how they're doing, if they need anything.
- h. VAMA- change in amount of help
 - i. Given the lower gas prices, decided to change the gas vouchers from \$25 to \$15. This also allows us to help more people.

Agenda items for next meeting: please let Cindy/Melissa know if you have any items.

Next SMV pastoral council meeting: July 14th at 6:30 pm