

St. Mary, Vinton
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021

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. Roll call: Marcia Reilly, JR Schemmel, Jim Mott, Danise Shannon, Cindy Forsyth, Stacey Happel, Jeannie Springer, Billy Ollinger, Melissa Tandy. Excused: Rhonda Happel
- II. Prayer and prayers for the community
- III. Approval of minutes – January 12th meeting – previously done via e-mail
- IV. Minutes from standing committees: Finance – Jan 28; FFC – Feb. 16; Archbishop's Guidelines re: Holy Week
- V. Additions to agenda-
 - Possible needed changes to rectory- see buildings and grounds (water heater and sewage drain pipe)
 - Call from fairground board (Dick Meyer)- wants permission to use parcel of land next to the fairgrounds during the fair. Our liability insurance will not cover this and thus the request was declined
 - Assessment value has gone down- will not do anything about it as the church does not pay property tax (Jeannie will email to Billy for further evaluation)
 - Suggestion to add a link to the bulletin on Facebook

Old Business

VI. Status of LOWTF giving

- Pledge amount: \$1,103,465
- Received amount: \$1,081,865 (98% of pledged)
- Total debt: \$118,000 (no payments have been made from the general parish budget over the last year due to COVID pandemic)

VII. Building & Grounds

- Eave spout came down – Jim put back up
- Painting continues slowly, but surely – thanks to Cindy and volunteers!
- Spring clean-up—outside not worried about getting people together to complete this, inside work may be trickier. Cindy will put together a list of tasks that need to be completed and share with Marcia and Jim. Will have a sign-up sheet in the gathering space like we did in the fall.
- Alliant switched out both meters that they read- needed rectory access and had to shut appliances off. Discovered six inches of corrosion on water heater—needs to

be replaced. Jeannie gave Nick Weber a heads up – will use building and grounds budget for replacement- Jeannie will email out a quote when received

- Leak in rectory sewer line from where PVC ends and cast iron starts - Jeannie will reach out to Nick Weber and email a quote when received
- Pea gravel falling out of the railroad ties due to water runoff- area needs to be regraded – water needs to run away vs toward building. Jim will get estimate from Matt Schminke on what the cost would be to regrade, etc.
- Replace the trees that fell down? Remove the stumps and replace them. Billy may have a couple trees we could have. Melissa will ask what it may cost to move at least 2 trees from Billy's house to the church

VIII. Community sustaining/building - attendance has been up a little bit, but not a lot. More gathering and visiting after Mass. Not able to change anything at this time. We will begin to work back to "normal" once more people are vaccinated and there is herd immunity.

- Returning to Mass- Not too worried about people over the age of 50. Lots of them have already reached out eager to come back to church once they are fully vaccinated. More worried about the young families that have stopped coming and how to get them back. Circle back to the article that was sent out a year ago about how to connect with parishioners. Work toward normal attendance this fall.

IX. Security at Mass (on hold...indefinitely)

New Business

X. May elections- last year everyone agreed to stay on another year due to the pandemic. Members completing their term in June 2021 include: Rhonda (cannot run again-served two terms), Jim & Melissa. Jim reports that he would like to step off the council. Melissa would be happy to run again, but would like to not be in an officer role. Will need to fill 2 positions currently held by Rhonda and Jim. Discussed having election at Mass vs electronic. Melissa will work with Marcia to create a Google Survey to send via email.

XI. PLC Report

- Annual appeal- did not send out last year due to the pandemic. Should we send this year? Consensus was that we should. In the past, we have asked families for \$75. It was suggested that we increase the request amount to \$100/household and designate the additional \$25 for LOWTF debt. Some families give more and others give less than the suggested amount. Decision - 25% of what is given will go toward the debt and the rest will go to our budget.
- Archbishop Jackel's most recent guidance re: pandemic- Archbishop has been hearing from some pastors that they are being pressured to relax public health safety measures that have been implemented due to Covid. Archbishop
- has told parishes to continue with all the precautions that have been put in place until herd immunity is reached.
- Marcia shared that she heard one pastor is considering allowing outside events to take place at their facility, but they would continue to not allow funeral dinners, or any other parish-based event to take place. Council members agreed this could be problematic and could lead to confusion and/or hurt feelings if we say no to funeral dinners, for example, but allow another family to have a graduation party. All agreed

- to continue with our current policy and wait until things are lifted (i.e. dispensation from attending Mass if removed) to reopen facilities to meals and other events.
- One change that we are allowing is to publish funeral Mass times again. Parishes that have had funeral times inadvertently publicized have not run into issues. Might need to reconsider if the family of the deceased is particularly large.

XII. Feedback on the current situation – i.e. – “How’s it going?”-

Easter - in Vinton there will be two Masses – one on Saturday night for the Easter Vigil and one on Easter Sunday. Do we have people RSVP? The group agreed to not do RSVP for Easter- will be prepared for overflow. We should clearly communicate that we will continue to enforce masks and social distancing which may mean some people will be seated in an overflow area.

XIII. First Fruits- Total balance available for distribution is \$666 – There have not been any requests for funds at this time. One person has been calling area churches for money for a water bill. Jeannie will refer that person to Salvation Army. Danise will look into the details about providing support for local high school seniors who are homeless, living on their own or in foster care. Will defer decision regarding possible donation(s) until the May meeting.

Agenda items for next meeting:

Next SMV pastoral council meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. (maybe face to face!)