

St. Mary, Vinton
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
May 11, 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 – Melissa Tandy, Jim Mott, JR Schemmel, Danise Shannon, Billy Ollinger, Rhonda Happel, Stacey Happel, Cindy Forsyth, Jeannie Springer, Marcia Reilly, Brenda Kowalsky
- II. Prayer and prayers for the community
- III. Approval of minutes – March meeting – done via e-mail
- IV. Minutes from standing committees: Social Justice – April 15; FFC – April 20; Finance – April 22; Liturgy – May 4
- V. Additions to agenda - none

Old Business

- I. Status of LOWTF - stopped paying down \$1500/month from parish's general funds in February 2020 due to pandemic. Finance council approved resuming monthly payment beginning in April 2021. Annual appeal letter went out last week and donations have started coming in. This year asked households to donate an additional \$25 or \$100 total. Of the donations received for the annual appeal 25% will go toward the LOWTF debt. Will provide status in the next meeting
 - Total pledge- \$1,108,993
 - Total received- \$1,087,418
 - Total debt- \$113,500
- II. Building & Grounds-
 - Jim- contacted Matt Schminke- will be meeting with him and will relay information to Jeannie. Meeting about the grading of the ground by the play area and the drain pipe by the steps
 - Cindy- spring clean-up went well, there are a few things left, but there are volunteers who have signed up for most of them
- III. Follow up on pastoral council elections- we have two nominees that will fill the two open spots so no election is needed. Rhonda Happel and Jim Mott will be stepping off and Ryan Allsup and Colman Silbernagel will be joining beginning in July. Rhonda and Jim were thanked for their service.

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- IV. Community sustaining/building – good attendance at this time. When dispensation is lifted and pews are opened up, there might be some who still want to socially distance. Discussed keeping one section with every other pew blocked off to accommodate those who are not comfortable with the decreased spacing. Could also set the basement up with spacing and stream the Mass there. The Archdiocese is working on welcoming videos, etc. to encourage people to return to Mass. Marcia will see what others in the deanery are doing regarding having food such as coffee & donuts. Have heard that some parishes in the diocese may be doing this outside. Once we start to open up, there will be a cascading effect with allowing food at meetings, funeral dinners, etc. Council not sure if we're ready to re-start funeral dinners, so hold off for now. Discussed what council members can do to welcome and thank people for coming the first weekend after the dispensation is lifted. Suggestion - "Coffee and chocolate milk (or lemonade) with the Council" in June and September.
- V. Security at Mass (on hold...indefinitely)

New Business

- I. Request for fire pit- Brenda Kowalsky joined the meeting to propose a fire pit for the church. The teens have requested one that they could use for outside class time and prayers and it could be used by other groups as well. They have used a portable fire pit in the past. Brenda has materials donated (concrete stone) and there are bricks in the church garage that she asked if they could be used. She has checked with our insurance guy and has the okay there, provided certain stipulations are followed. She has reached out to the fire department to make sure it would be okay, but the person she needs to talk to is gone until the 20th. Jim advised incorporating a steel ring inside to prevent issues with moisture in the concrete blocks. Brenda is seeking approval from the council to proceed. Council approved. Brenda will present the final project plans to us prior to construction, including proposed location.
- II. Dispensation for Mass- Archbishop is ending the dispensation excusing people from attending Mass in person effective June 5/6. Some churches are anticipating a large increase in numbers; Marcia is not anticipating that given that we've already seen a steady increase in attendance the past few months. A few more people may come back and a few that have been coming may stop coming if they are uncomfortable with revised mitigation measures. Facebook streaming will continue for now.

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III. Mitigation measures - As of June 5/6, it is up to the individual pastor/PLC in consultation with their pastoral councils and staff to determine what mitigation measures will remain in place. Council was in agreement with the liturgy committee in that this will be a phased process and we plan to address this topic again at our next meeting to see if anything can be opened or resumed at that time.

- Looked at what's in place now
- Looked at what the recommendations are
- Leave two sections with spacing options and leave the chairs in the back for those who may not be comfortable sitting closer together. After much discussion the final decision was to leave one section and the chairs at the back for social distancing. If it is filling up we can add another section. Will include a note in the bulletin about the social distancing seating and that it is reserved for those purposes
- Communion procession resumes
- Holy water fonts will remain empty
- Adding singing Mass parts back— will continue to just have the cantor (or two cantors) and will think about having the choir coming back in the fall. The choir normally takes the summer off anyway.
- Waiting on missalettes until the new ones come out at the end of November.
- Continue to wear masks
- No physical sign of peace but may offer peace to those nearby with a verbal exchange or a wave of the hand
- Not bringing the cup back for some time. Council concurred that we will continue to offer communion in the hand only
- Will retrain altar servers in the fall.
- Communion to the homebound - due to the measures to get into the Lutheran home and other care centers we will continue to hold off on communion to the homebound- will relay, to those parishioners and staff, that we are talking about when this could resume.
- No luncheons at this time

IV. Haiti fundraiser – Leo brought to Marcia- Fr Eddy is wanting to build another school that will help 3 communities. Need another \$30,000 to help with this project. Leo is wanting to approach those that have been big contributors in the past. This is similar to what All Saints has done to get funds. Beyond our normal fundraising. Okay to do the fundraiser but to do as a general, blanket fundraiser for the entire parish/cluster rather than

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approach people individually. Will plan to have a flyer in the bulletin and can also do a Facebook post and put on website. Jim motioned that the fundraiser be a blanket, general fundraiser for Haiti with unanimous approval

- V. Meeting date change – Marcia will be on retreat the 2nd Tuesday of July when we normally meet and has asked to move the meeting date to the 3rd Tuesday. Meanwhile, one of the new council members has a conflict on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and has asked if the council would consider permanently moving the council meetings to the 3rd Tuesday. No one had any conflicts with the 3rd Tuesday, so beginning in July 2021, the SMV pastoral council will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the odd-numbered months.

Agenda items for next meeting:

Next SMV pastoral council meeting: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.