

Parish Council Notes
Sacred Heart Lower Conference Room
2/24/20

In Attendance: Father Kevin Staley- Joyce, Kate Neal, Nick Frega, Michelle Solomon, Erica Johnson, Anne Marie David, Lija Joseph, Keirnan Conroy Klosek, Peg Miller, Cathy Carver, Jim Allaire, Colin Foley, Jeff Gallant, Monica Pacheco-Tougas, Margaret Roylance

Absent: Father Dan Riley, Kristina Preman, Rosemary Siebold, Deacon Bill Koffel, Tom Morrison, Tammy Sakala Stossel, Ann Wilcox

Kate Neal adjourned meeting and led an Opening Prayer

Update on Father Dan Riley: Father Dan's surgery was successful; his recovery has been excellent and he reports that he can be back at work full time beginning March 6th. He thanks everyone for the prayers and support.

Update on Father John memorials: First, we invite the entire Collaborative to join us on Sunday, April 19, at 10:00am at Our Lady's for a special Mass of remembrance for Fr. John. Following Mass, a reception will be held in the Lower Hall. We also have announced plans for several projects to create permanent memorials to Fr. John at each parish. At Sacred Heart, we will be adding Fr. John's portrait to the pastors' wall in the parish office, and we are planning for an installation of the Suscipe prayer in the Grotto behind the convent. At Our Lady's, we will be installing a new marble slab in the Lower Hall with Fr. John's name and dates of pastorship, adding to the existing memorial there. We are also planning to refurbish the Reconciliation Chapel in Fr. John's memory, in order to make it a more prayerful space; it will include the Suscipe prayer.

Reviewed of minutes from last meeting: called to approve by Margaret and seconded by Lija

Task Force conversation time:

-Discussed access to Google Doc. Jim Allaire reported he hadn't seen the link or document, a short conversation on how to find and open the document began. It was suggested that anyone struggling to use could send to Kristina or another staff what they needed added. Was suggested that we bring a laptop to next parish council to just bring up the document on the screen and do a quick tutorial on how to use it.

-Task Forces broke up into small groups for approx. 30 minutes

Reports from groups

1) Welcoming committee reported by Keirnan.

With permission from Father Dan the committee have 3 local pastors they are going to tap to ask some of their parishioners to give feedback as anonymous visitors. The Committee is drafting a letter now to be sent by Father Dan with the ask, which will give some guidelines, overview of the program, and a copy of the feedback form, so the pastors will understand exactly what it is they are asking their parishioners to do. Those pastors are to pass back to the committee contact info at which point the committee will reach out by email or phone and ask them directly, giving another explanation of the program to be sure the goal is clearly communicated. These parishioners will be asked to attend one Mass in between April 1st and May 10th. Will specify Our Lady's or Sacred Heart to be sure and equal

number of visitors go to each. They will have a feedback form with them in person and will keep some copies in the back of the parish in case they forget. Will gather feedback on both logistics like parking and more spiritual concepts like their perceptions of Mass. There will be two feedback meeting dates on May 10th and May 11th, where the committee will be able to sit down and go through the feedback with them in person. The 10th will be a day meeting and the 11th an evening meeting to accommodate schedules. Haven't worked out all the details of what this will look like, unclear if Father Dan will run that meeting. After we get all that data will sit back down as a group and try to pull the data out of it.

Question: will Sacred Heart parishioners visit Our Lady's and vice versa during this process?

Answer: Aside from just these pastors recommendation the committee is going to ask a few people they know who they think could be good at doing this and wanted the rest of the parish council to let them know if they have friends or neighbors that would be good to ask, just to boost the numbers a bit. As the more data we have the better. So yes, some parishioners who have never experienced Mass in the other parish can do that, but the whole thing really starts with these anonymous visitors recommended from other parishes, as they aren't from the parish. As long as we are coming up with the document though it seems worth making available to parishioners to use as well.

Margaret Roylance offered a friend of hers she would like to recommend to the committee

A discussion began about whether it mattered what the age, family dynamic, and expectation around a Mass experience of those doing the survey is so that we could read the data with a fuller picture of who these folks feeding back to us are.

After some discussion it was resolved that yes, some data like age, and whether they have children would be gathered but, the rest will be massaged out during the post survey in person conversations.

Anyone who wanted to further comment can contact Kiernan as the committee contact person

Music reported by Erica

The written piece that is part of the published plan around this goal was revised by the committee which includes Anne Marie, Erica, Tom Morrison and Paul Arpino. The committee now feels the wording, tone, and expectation are something they felt they could deal with in a positive manner and they are looking forward to putting together this collaborative vision that also engages the significant differences in each parish and continuing in the tradition of many years but also looking forward to the future. The committee expects that some of the feedback from the anonymous visitor program will end up being part of the work of this goal and as a side note Anne Marie did request that the visitors not take notes during Mass as it would be intimidating to look out and see someone grading you. It was commented that if they are writing they won't be actively participating and Kiernan wrote a note to add to the survey to complete after Mass.

Hospitality reported by Lija

They had 5 ideas to share

- 1) An encounter with the pastor especially for new members of the community. This is a one on one visit, where their gifts can really be discerned.
- 2) A supper club where you can have a different experience of gathering community outside of Mass. So have a potluck and highlight peoples cultural heritage. Would like to include a speaker as part of this, a short 10-minute topic being introduced. Will give some possible homework and articles.

- 3) For youth and young adult something where their voices are heard rather than just getting told how to think
- 4) Continue the fun events like holly harvest and fish fry but expand that and add some more events
- 5) At coffee hour be more conscious of welcoming the stranger to avoid new people walking into clicks and not being engaged.

It was shared that we are also hoping to be added on to a tour of newtons beautiful buildings that happens each spring so people can come in and see it.

The committee acknowledged that a lot of this is falls under sharing our faith goal and that there may be some overlap of these two goals.

Following Jesus and Sharing our faith reported by Jeff

In short term will focus mostly on A and C under this goal. Under A reachmore- Cathy Carver and Kate are part of that program and will be gathering with the graduates in the coming weeks so they are going to pick their brains on how this program gets used to further our goal in the pastoral plan

Under C Jeff has a personal interest in this and is hoping to start a men's group. So he will be polling the current small group leaders to see how their experience of leading has been and try to learn some best practices and also what some of their needs moving forward are. In this way we can start encouraging new leaders to start groups using this wisdom and feedback.

Under B we won't be able to accomplish much with this goal until Father Dan is back and able to meet about it.

The committee is very happy to collaborate with the hospitality folks and their ideas.

Vocations reported on by Margaret:

The committee met last Friday. They invited Sister Marian Batho to join the committee as she has been involved with discernment and vocational activities for many years. She was on the diocesan pastoral counsel for a long time so she is very aware of the resources out there. It was reaffirmed that it is okay to add non council members to this. The committee will be a little more aggressive then the timeline on the plan as they felt we needed to ramp up the work on vocational awareness in our parish. It was suggested by Deacon Bill to start with the website which is very out of date and get that to be a useful and engaging page for information around this. There are 4 general areas they talked about the first being the website, and with Jim Allaire as someone who has professional experience in this has volunteered to help in this area. 2) Deacon Koffel has a prayer for vocations that was used in NH at a parish where they pray it after every Mass and they are hoping to find some Masses we could use this. 3) education from Vocations versus vocations and how vocations can lead you to the capital V vocations and so to have some people give some witness talks of how they got to their particular vocation and to raise peoples awareness that everyone has a vocation. 4) Sr. Marian would be willing to run some workshops on discerning vocations – not any one particular vocation but in general.

Father Kevin added that having a night where married couple could give a witness on positive relationships and married life.

At this point it was 8:22 and Kate acknowledged that time had run out for the rest of the agenda which included some time to break into separate parish councils to spend some time on parish specific conversations. She asked if the council agreed they would like some time to do this and the Our Ladys council did not feel this necessary but the Sacred Heart Council did think it wise to meet and met together for 15 minutes post meeting to discuss some Sacred Heart related issues and made a plan to meet with the full Sacred Heart council and Father Dan on Monday March 23rd at 7pm

This council was adjourned at 8:30

The next council meeting will be Tuesday April 28th at 7pm in Our Lady's Fickett Room.