

SHOL Collaborative  
CPC Meeting – Monday June 8, 2020  
7:00 pm Remote (Zoom)

In attendance: Fr. Dan, Kristina Preman, Nick Frega, Kate Neal, Deacon Bill Koffel, Michelle Solomon, Erica Johnson, Anne Marie David, Peg Miller, Jim Allaire, Margaret Roylance, Lija Joseph, Colin Foley, Keirnan Conroy Klosek, Cathy Carver, Tom Morrison, Monica Pacheco-Tougas, Tammy Sakala

Minutes from the April 28, 2020 meeting approved.

#### Pandemic Time Ministry

- Current #'s for Mass Attendance
  - Week 1 (May 30-31)
    - SH 55@ 9 am, 12@ 11 am
    - OL 87 @ 4pm, 75 @ 10 am
  - Week 2 (June 6-7)
    - SH 54 @ 9 am, 23 @ 11 am
    - OL 40 @ 4 pm (thunder storm!), 85-90 @ 10 am
  - Online Mass - 175 views on average resulting in approx. 400 attendees
    - Sound system "incredible" this weekend- greatly improved.
  - Weekday Mass June 8 (first day) at SH – 14 people (that included 1 family)
- Nice soft opening- no one has been turned away
- Gratitude for the huge amount of effort expended to put all of this in place.
- OL – 6 pm liturgy starting this Sunday as we incrementally open.
- Parishioners slowing coming back – health and safety are a real priority.
  - Cardinal's suspension of Mass obligation will extend for the foreseeable future- most likely until there is a vaccine put into place.

#### Brief Description of Protocol at Mass

- All attendees expected to wear masks
- Enter only through the main front door (or escorted to the handicapped/elevator entrance)
- Seating – every third row with 6 ft. distancing when not seated with a family member with whom you have been quarantined
- Announcements at the beginning of Mass, before Communion and after Communion re: what to expect
- No Procession, No congregational singing, No altar servers, No sign of peace
- Masks not worn in sanctuary by the presider
- Communion: communicants stay seated, Eucharistic ministers walk through the congregation in the empty row in front of seating row. Communion is gently dropped into the cupped hand of the recipient who removes mask, consumes the Eucharist and replaces mask after the Eucharistic minister leaves the bench.
- Eucharistic Ministers clean hands with hand sanitizer before communion and are followed by an usher with hand sanitizer in case of accidental touching during distribution of communion
- Dismissed from the rear of the church by usher – while maintaining 6 ft. distancing.
- Offertory basket is at the door on the way out of church
  - Suggestion that in the final announcement we emphasis that online giving is an alternative to donations being left in the basket.

## Print Communications

- Excellent job by Nick who was interviewed by Newton Tab re: our collaborative resuming Mass
- Front page article in the NYT re: the efforts Boston Priests made in Anointing the sick during this pandemic (Fr. Kevin was one of the priests on the front line)

## Parish Outreach

- SH completed the note-writing campaign to reach out to all the congregation...approx. 580 letters
  - Peg Miller reported that she received notes back from people so pleased to have been contacted
- OL Phone calls – all assigned, nearly complete
  - Much good outreach came out of the phone calls
  - Also served as a tool to update the database.
  - Gratitude to Rosemary who worked diligently on this until the day she retired!

## Racial Justice – SHOL CPC response to the current racial tension in our world

- Collaborative Response:
  - Fr. Dan has addressed the issue in his Monday Flock note messages
  - Fr. Bart's Homily on Pentecost "I can't breathe"
  - Msgr. Dennis' homily likening racism to an addiction...that requires the help of a higher power to eliminate
  - Cardinal Sean's letter – read at all the Masses on the weekend of June 6-7 and video available on our SHOL Collaborative Website.
- Council Feedback – reflecting on comments and feelings from and about people of color in our midst.
  - "very sad about the resurgence of racial tension"
  - "some people in our pews don't feel welcome"
  - "what can we do"
  - "living through the 60's again – it's a tough remembrance"
  - "you can feel isolated in Newton – it has been a hard these last few weeks".
- Action: (see Kate)
  - Utilize the Friday speaker series
    - Session of listening – have someone talk about how to listen empathetically as it is the first step in social justice...understanding someone's pain.
    - Share personal experience.
      - Important to remember that you make welcome someone who wants to speak but with this emotional issue, don't identify people you think should speak.
  - Justice and Peace committee looked at the book/movie "Just Mercy"
    - View Movie on Netflix utilizing technology that allows you to screen and discuss together.

CPC membership for next year - given the inability to hold elections at this time, propose that everyone's commitment be extended by one year (with the understanding that no one should feel obligated to stay on if it is time to move on).

- Directly involving Margaret Roylance, Ann Wilcox, Cathy Carver, Colin Foley (youth representative), Jeff Gallant as their terms were set to conclude.
- Kristina will reach out to all involved re their willingness to serve another year.

### Concern about the “Catholic Vote”

- Jim Allaire presented his concern to the Council re: the perceived “Catholic Vote” that the current administration is attempting to sway.
  - Referenced an April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting attended by 600 Catholic Clergy (including Bishops) and education leaders became a forum that attempted to define the election in one particular way for the Catholic voters.
  - Concern expressed that Bishops have not said much about this attempt to define a “Catholic vote” as we should remember that Bishops/churches will not tell individuals who to vote for (USCCB – Forming Consciousness, paragraph 7)
  - Noted that Wilton Gregory recently spoke out; some council members wish it would be more widespread.
  - Good reminder to be aware in Collaborative communications that we do not endorse any particular candidate or party.
  - September will be a good time to reprint and reissue online and at doors of church a 2-page summary of a USCCB statement reminding people what the Catholic Church teaches on issues such as pro-life, climate change, immigration, etc.
  - League of Women Voters also provides an unbiased explanation of the ballot and the issues.
  - Council reminded that in their special positions in the parish/collaborative they represent a certain level of empowerment that can help lead parishioners to the resources that can help them make informed decisions on their own.

### Year of the Eucharist

- To begin the weekend of June 13-14, The Feast of Corpus Christi and run through next year’s Feast of Corpus Christi - with the focus being on the gift of the Eucharist and the belief of Jesus Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist.
  - The year will contain opportunities for parishioners to be educated and focused on the Eucharist e.g. using resources such as Bishop Baron Videos, a look at Eucharistic Miracles, opportunity for Adoration, and many other opportunities to make this Year of the Eucharist meaningful.
  - There will be a representative from the collaborative put into place to organize and communicate with the Archdiocese (position formerly filled by Fr. Kevin)

### Open Forum

- As we enter further phases over the summer are there plans in place to use tools such as Sign Up Genius for seating?
  - For now, the upper limits of our capacity in either church have not been challenged. We will fine tune and adjust protocol if we begin turning people away.
- Volunteers: Currently OL has enough volunteers to staff the masses that are in place. SH has a small pool of volunteers that are currently keeping things going.
  - Safety is our first and most important priority.
  - We will only expand our offering of Mass times if we can ensure that people are safe.
  - If you are in a position to volunteer, send coordinator an email.
  - A large portion of the volunteer pool are in a vulnerable age range and are safer worshipping at home.
- Priority of Staff is on the safe opening of the Churches, continuation of the online liturgy and outreach to people in need. Most other programs and initiatives are on hold until there is some semblance of routine, predictability and safety.

Staff Notes:

- Congratulations to Fr. Dan on the 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination (June 9<sup>th</sup>)
- Congratulations to Rosemary on her retirement. She and her husband Mike are in our prayers as they enter this new chapter of their lives.
  - Her position will not be filled which greatly impact the workload of the existing staff.
- The Collaborative is grateful to Fr. Bart for taking on a role in our Mass Schedule.
- Congratulations to Kristina and her husband Ben who are expecting their first child in early November!
- The Pastoral Staff shared that the Collaborative staff has truly come together as a team and recognize the many different gift that are brought to the table to serve this Community of Faith.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Arpino