

## **St. Francis of Assisi Pastoral Council Minutes**

### **Assisi Room of the Rectory**

**April 19, 2018**

*Members in attendance: Fr. John Dillon, Anna Breece, Alicia Church, Debra Crone, Justin Fitzgerald, Charles Giochi, Anton Handono, Chris King, Daniel Koscinski, Bernie McGuire, and Travis Tomon.*

*Ex-officio members present: Melissa Egan, Communications Coordinator*

The meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council was called to order a few minutes after 7:30 pm. Member Chris King moved to accept the minutes from the March 15 meeting, and member Daniel Koscinski moved to second the minutes. The council preliminarily voted to accept the minutes, because the version before them was not the final iteration.

On behalf of Deacon Jim Datovech, Fr. John Dillon reported on the roof of the Rectory sustaining some wind damage during a wind storm in March and the decision to replace the roof in its entirety. St. Francis of Assisi filed an insurance claim with Catholic Mutual, a nonprofit group that is part of the Catholic Church, which agreed to pay for \$7,000 of the damaged roof. The balance of the cost – about \$15,000 – will be paid out of earmarked construction funds collected during the Forward in Faith Campaign about 10 years ago.

The parish solicited four construction bids, which were all due back to the parish on April 30. Construction on the roof is expected to start in coming weeks.

In addition, Fr. John reported that the architectural feasibility study to price out parish facility enhancements should be completed by June 2018.

In other business, council members also discussed *Amoris Laetitia* (“The Joy of Love”), Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation that came out of the Synods on the Family in 2014 and 2015. At the March 15 meeting, Fr. John had presented the council with the Archdiocese of Washington’s *Pastoral Plan to Implement Amoris Laetitia* and challenged members to look at ways to disseminate it to the parish.

At the April 19 meeting, member Daniel Koscinski reported that he and Fr. Jack Berard had discussed compiling a paper, bulleted summary of *Amoris Laetitia* for youth. He talked about the need to disseminate the apostolic exhortation on social media.

Member Travis Tomon also raised the importance of recruiting more proactively for youth lectors and youth ushers. Member Alicia Church suggested that former Youth Minister Sue Lea had recruited at the Confirmation meeting. Member Chris King also suggested reaching out to St. Francis parishioners who are students at area Catholic schools, as a way for them to become more engaged in parish life.

The council also received an update on the promotional efforts for the Indicators of Vitality Survey, which launched Saturday, April 7. As of that date, 116 people had responded to the online survey; Deborah McDonald of the Archdiocese of Washington had suggested that a parish of St. Francis’ size could expect to generate at least 300 surveys. Council members suggested other ways the survey could be promoted, such as:

- Offering paper surveys at daily Mass (Fr. John made at least a couple of announcements at daily Masses, as to the availability of the survey in paper form, while the survey was live).
- Asking the Joyful Greeter ministers to help pass out the surveys (Both Joyful Greeters and Pastoral Council members helped with distributing paper surveys on two weekends the survey was live).
- Texting reminders. (This was done five days before and the day the survey closed).
- Having Fr. John speak at the pulpit, encouraging Mass goers to complete a survey (Fr. John did this at all Masses the weekend of April 21/22).

In addition, member David Theis suggested through an e-mail that food be offered to Mass goers to encourage them to complete a paper survey. Doughnuts and pizza were offered at Masses the weekend of April 21/22, producing varying levels of parishioner engagement.

In other business, the council also reviewed a handout on 'Securing Physical Infrastructure of churches.' The handout, which was distributed at a meeting attended recently by Fr. John and Deacon Jim, stressed the need for churches to conduct a threat assessment; protect critical infrastructure, such as heating/air conditioning units and; and safeguarding the church perimeter.

As part of this conversation, member Debra Crone suggested that the Religious Education Department include in packets at the beginning of the school year information on where kids will be taken during an emergency. Member Alicia Church also suggested that the Montgomery County Fire Department consult with the parish on where parishioners -- particularly the Religious Education students -- could best evacuate during an emergency.

Council members also reviewed a handout titled, "Five Top Takeaways from *Gaudete et exultate*" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"), another apostolic exhortation from Pope Francis. Fr. John recommended that the document possibly be used as the basis for a summer Small Group study.

Under Ministry Reports, the following was reported:

- Religious Education reported that more than \$1,100 was collected for Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl Campaign during Lent. In addition, 39 children would receive First Communion on April 28 and 36 youth will be confirmed on May 21.
- Music presented a wish list of items and tools they would like to enhance the musical experience at St. Francis. New hymnals were requested, as well as a new piano and organ.
- Anna Breece, chair of the St. Jude Catholic School Committee, said the school raised more than \$100,000 during its recent Hawaiian Luau fundraiser. Also, the school Drama Club staged "Legally Blonde Jr." in April. In addition, students also celebrated the Sacrament of First Communion.

Fr. John reminded the council about four upcoming events:

- Rebuilding Together and the First Eucharist Mass, both on April 28.
- The Indoor Parish Yard Sale on May 12.
- Confirmation on May 21

Lastly, Alicia Church reminded her colleagues that the May 17 meeting would be the last full meeting of the year. The meeting in June would be one hour long, followed by a social.

