

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

March 28, 2019

Assisi Room (Rectory)

Members in attendance: Fr. John Dillon; Anton Handono; Christine King; Bernie McGuire; Ann Pierre; Vincent Price; and Travis Tomon.

Ex-officio members and staff in attendance: Deacon Dan Finn and Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan

The Parish Pastoral Council discussed a wide-ranging number of important issues at its meeting March 28, touching on the upcoming parish Ministry Fair, status of the church's facility enhancement projects and the strategic Parish Plan.

Fr. John called the meeting to order shortly after 7:30 pm. He read aloud a committee report from Daniel Koscinski, chair of the Ministry Fair Subcommittee, reporting that parish staff have sent out communications for parishioners to save the date of June 8/9 for the upcoming Ministry Fair. Daniel and the subcommittee have also asked ministry leaders to begin thinking through how they might participate in the fair, including giving pulpit testimony on their ministries in May and staffing their ministry tables.

Fr. John also discussed the appointment of parishioner Joshua Vincent to be vice chairman of the Parish Safety Committee, a group of parishioners who will advise the pastor of issues of parish security, including those involving a loss of human life. He said the Parish Safety Committee will meet several times a year. Member Ann Pierre asked whether parishioners will be at each Mass, specifically to look out for security issues. Fr. John said that would be probable, as people will need to be prudently vigilant.

Under the business of the parish's facilities enhancement project, Fr. John said members of the Building Committee were assembling a document by April 9 so they could appear before the College of Consultors meeting on May 2. He said the Building Committee will present the basic outline of projects, with the intent of getting overall approval for the projects as budgeted. As long as the budget is not exceeded for every batch of projects the church hopes to pursue, the Building Committee does not have to repeatedly seek approval from the College of Consultors. Fr. John also reported that the parish staff has sent out five Requests for Proposal for a construction manager.

Member Ann Pierre stated that she hopes we'll have a communication process to convey what is happening and what the process will entail.

Under Ministry Reports, Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan reported on the Communications Ministry's work, which has included continuing to promote Lenten and Holy Week events and activities. The Communications Ministry has also helped promote the Hoops for Haiti Basketball fundraiser on March 23 and the Rebuilding Together Project Day on April 27 and helped mobilize parishioners to defeat the Physician Assisted Suicide bill that came before the Maryland General Assembly in March.

In the area of Social Concerns, Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Director Tony Bosnick submitted a report covering Lenten Small Groups; the Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl Program; the Catholic Charities Lenten Food Drive on April 6/7; the Good Friday Collection; and the Share the Cross fundraiser benefitting the Haiti Ministry. He also reported on the work of the Maryland Catholic Conference, which worked to defeat the Physician Assisted Suicide legislation; succeeded in the right to an abortion not getting enshrined in the Maryland Constitution; and advocated for the continual funding of scholarships to Catholic schools for the needy.

In Religious Education, Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson submitted a report indicating she would soon launch registration for Vacation Bible Camp and the 2019-2020 Religious Education classes. She also reported that Bishop Roy Campbell will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Francis at 1:30 pm Sunday, May 19.

Member Anna Breece also reported on several events happening at St. Jude Regional Catholic School. The Drama Club will stage a production of "In the Woods." Additionally, the St. Jude Gala will take place one year from now in March 2020.

The council also briefly discussed the idea of promoting volunteers in various parish ministries, as a means for people to get to know volunteers and the ministries in which they serve. Fr. John stated that it would be good to promote this information through the Information Monitor, since we have the means to run text and photos in a way that can be shared with the parish.

In other business, member Christine King also discussed the "Engaging the Mission" event that 10 parishioners, staff members and clergy from St. Francis of Assisi Parish attended in March, alongside other parish leaders throughout the archdiocese. Through the exercises in which the St. Francis of Assisi participants took part, Christine said the group decided to refine the priorities it had developed from the planning sessions held to process data gathered through the Indicators of Vitality survey. The new priorities are:

1. Enhancing the church's plant and facilities.
2. Drawing families to a deeper relationship with God through worship and community and to entice them to come back each week.
3. Drawing and engaging people into the parish with a special emphasis on young people and families.

Deacon Dan mentioned that the stakeholders should define what it can accomplish in three-month chunks, so the work is achievable. The group then discussed the need to convene task forces to take on each of the priorities. Fr. John discussed one data point that is necessary for these task forces to do their work is for the parish to survey more frequently its weekly attendance. Member Travis Tomon sought to clarify whether the second priority addressed inviting new members into the church or engaging those who are already here. Deacon Dan also raised whether the second priority should come under the purview of the Liturgy Committee. Christine closed the discussion by saying that the next step is to identify leaders who could serve on the task forces and to send those names to Fr. John.

Fr. John then mentioned the following upcoming events that were occurring in the month of April:

- Parish Penance Service on April 1.
- Evening Prayers and Stations of the Cross on Fridays throughout Lent.

- Lenten Day of Reflection on April 13.
- Family Stations of the Cross on April 19.
- Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays in the church (only during Lent).
- First Communion on April 27.
- Confirmation on May 19.

In addition, Fr. John mentioned that parishioner Will Garcia, God willing, would be ordained a permanent deacon on June 22. He also mentioned that every fifth Sunday, there is a Rosary prayed at 7 pm in the St. Clare Chapel in the Rectory.

Fr. John adjourned the meeting at 9 pm.