

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

May 23, 2019

Rectory's Assisi Room

Members in attendance: Fr. John Dillon, Alicia Church, Debra Crone, Charles Giochi, Anton Handono, Bernie McGuire and Travis Tomon.

Others in attendance: Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan

The Parish Pastoral Council heard updates on the upcoming Ministry Fair to be held June 8/9 in the Gathering Space and on key parish priorities developed by the consultative body at its meeting on May 23 in the Rectory's Assisi Room.

After calling the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, Fr. John Dillon read a report from Ministry Fair Coordinator Daniel Koscinski on the status of the Ministry Fair to be held the weekend of Pentecost Sunday. The organizing committee was focused on coordinating the logistics for the event, including how tables would be organized, what ministry leaders would promote the Ministry Fair at the pulpit and whether the Knights of Columbus could help with setup and breakdown.

Fr. John also provided an update on the *Engaging the Mission* initiative. Under Key Priority 1 (*Plant and Facilities Management*), Fr. John reported that the College of Consultors has approved St. Francis' project. He reported that the parish has identified a general contractor and architect and has three bids on the church roof. He also reported that the parish plans to start with the repair of the roof, install improved outdoor lighting and then repair and repave the parking lot.

On a related note, Fr. John reported that the church experienced a power surge that impacted the sanctuary's air conditioning system. In response to a separate incident, Fr. John also submitted a work order to repair the air conditioner in the Parish Center. He reported that it could be a \$2,000 repair, but if we have to replace the system, it could cost \$18,000. Both issues have since been addressed.

Under Key Priority 2 (*Increasing Participation in Liturgy and Other Forms of Worship at St. Francis*), Fr. John asked the council for their permission to request that the ushers do a monthly count of Mass attendance from June to December 2019. This is necessary to determine whether the church can measure a 5-10 increase in parishioners, a benchmark for Key Priority 2. Member Alicia Church noted that the Parish Council would like the counts to be done. The council set an additional benchmark of observing a 10 percent increase in small group participation. Reading a report from Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick, Fr. John said that 94 people had participated in Lenten Small Groups. Forty-eight people had also taken part in the Navigating Your Finances God's Way Small Groups during the winter.

On an unrelated note, Fr. John mentioned that parishioners Terry Davis, Sara Dean and Don Dean are all stepping down from leading the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Ministry after many decades. Fr. John announced that Tony Bosnick will take over leadership of this ministry.

Under Key Priority 3 (*Increase the Number of Parishioners Ages 18-40 Who Are Actively Involved in Ministries and Engage Non-Participating Parishioners*), Fr. John reported that Matthew and Casey Perisin have agreed to lead a new Young Families Ministry. They re excited to begin this emerging ministry at St. Francis. In regard to engaging young adults, Parish Council member Travis Tomon commented that it might be beneficial to direct interested young adults to the church's liturgical ministries, because there is not a big time commitment. Fr. John agreed that that was a good idea.

Member Alicia Church also discussed the need for new members to join the Parish Pastoral Council. Because four members' terms are ending in December 2019 (Arleen Hall, Anton Handono, Chris King and Ann Pierre) and five members have recently left the council because of moves out of the area and other circumstances (Debra Crone, Daniel Koscinski, Alec Niedermaier, Ken Raker and David Theis), the council will need to add members. She suggested that council members begin recruiting seven to 10 people this summer to see if they would be interested in running for the Parish Council. If more than eight people are identified and agree to run for the council, the they parish can hold an election this fall; if not, then Fr, John can appoint members. Alicia also mentioned that, at its September meeting, the council can discuss whether it wants to change the date on which the council meets.

The council heard ministry a report from the Communications Ministry, which has been preparing marketing and promotional materials for the Ministry Fair. The council also heard from the Religious Education Ministry, which coordinated Confirmation on May 19 and is coordinating Vacation Bible Camp from June 24-28.

Alicia also discussed the council's last meeting from 6-7 pm Thursday, June 20. Following the meeting, the council will have a social. The parish will provide the main course and attendees are asked to bring an appetizer or a dessert. Parish staff will also be invited to the event.

Under new business, Fr. John and Alicia also discussed the 2022 50th Anniversary Summer Planning Task Force, which will meet this summer. Alicia reported that the group would like to have two meetings – scheduled for Monday, July 15, and Monday, Aug. 12 in the Youth Room – to brainstorm about the parish's 50th anniversary celebration in 2022. Alicia said the group would discuss what we want to do; how we will raise money for it; and establish a task force to brainstorm on how to move forward.

Lastly, Fr. John discussed the following upcoming events:

- June 8/9: Ministry Fair
- June 22: 15th Anniversary Memorial Mass for Mattie J.T. Stepanek
- June 22: Upcounty Community Resources' 5K Walk and Roll-a-Thon to be held at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg
- June 23 at the 11:15 am Mass: First Mass at which Deacon Will Garcia will give a Homily

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.