

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

September 19, 2019

Rectory's Assisi Room

Members in attendance: Fr. John Dillon, Anna Breece, Alicia Church, Bernie McGuire, Ann Pierre, Vincent Price, Travis Tomon and Miguel Welanetz

Others in attendance: Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan

The Parish Pastoral Council received updates on several key initiatives at its September meeting, including the status of the strategic priorities identified through the *Engaging Our Mission* process and five vacancies on the Pastoral Council that will need to be filled in January 2020.

After Fr. John called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm, member Miguel Welanetz made a motion to accept the May 2019 minutes and Alicia seconded the motion. The motion passed. The council then provided feedback on the Parish Ministry Fair, which took place June 8 and 9 in the Gathering Space. Alicia commented that she thought the event was too crowded, with too many ministries represented and too many ministries vying for space. Miguel suggested that it might be effective to sponsor a Ministry Fair Month, in which different ministries are promoted every week for a month instead of all ministries on one weekend. Council members also expressed interest in featuring a 'Ministry of the Month' by having ministry coordinators offer a brief pulpit testimony on their ministry once a month. Ann Pierre, one of the Ministry Fair coordinators, said she thought the Ministry Fair was a great effort, seemed to be enjoyed by participants and that the Parish Council should host another one soon.

Fr. John also updated the Parish Council on key priorities under our *Engaging the Mission* process. Under the first key priority, *Plant and Facilities Management*, Fr. John reported that contracts to hire a project manager and architect for the parish's two-phase plan to enhance its facilities have been signed. A Town Hall meeting will also be organized in coming months so that the parish can communicate more detail about the project. Under the second key priority, *Increasing Participation in Liturgy and Other Forms of Worship at St. Francis*, Fr. John reported that the ushers conducted Mass counts this past summer, reporting 3,483 people attending Mass one weekend in July and 4,027 people attending Mass one weekend in August. Fr. John said he'd like the ushers to continue counting parishioners attending Mass once a month for the rest of the year. In response to a question from Ann Pierre, Fr. John said that the archdiocese mandates a count of parishioners every year to determine whether and why Mass attendance is falling throughout the archdiocese.

Under the third key priority of *Increasing the Number of Parishioners 18-40 Who Are Actively Involved in Ministries and Engaging Non-Participating Parishioners*, Fr. John reported on the kickoff meeting for the Families with Young Children Ministry, which targets young families at St. Francis whose children are five and younger. He also reported on 270Catholic Coordinator Rob Stamper's efforts to develop Pre-Evangelization and Evangelization Committees to reach young adults throughout Montgomery County.

The Pastoral Council also discussed the upcoming Parish Pastoral Council election, which they had hoped to hold in the first or second week of November 2019. Because there are five vacancies on the council for the term beginning Jan. 1, 2020, and only four people had submitted their names for consideration to serve – parishioners Marianne DeAusen, Ron Hays, Louise Locke, and Leah Vincent – then Fr. John may exercise his authority to appoint members instead of holding an election. Member Alicia Church also welcomed back council member Miguel Welanetz, who is filling the vacancy created by former parishioner David Theis moving to Pennsylvania.

Under Ministry Reports, Fr. John reported on the first meeting of the Parish Security Committee, which is being chaired by parishioner Josh Vincent. The group met on Sept. 11 and discussed St. Francis' compliance and status as measured by the archdiocesan Emergency Response Guide, which covers areas including Medical and First Aid and emergency situations. Fr. John said that ushers will need a way to identify medical professionals among St. Francis' parishioner base in case their professional expertise is needed during Mass or other parish events. Fr. John also stated that the Joyful Greeter Ministry should also be engaged in work on these issues of parish security.

Under other ministry reports, St. Jude parent and liaison Anna Breece reported on upcoming events happening at the regional Catholic school that St. Francis supports. Communications Ministry Coordinator Melissa Egan also gave a report on that ministry's work, as well as on the most recent articles profiled in *Our Parish Times* and the upcoming Offertory Stewardship Appeal, which will launch with Commitment Sunday on Nov. 16 and 17.

Alicia also reported on the brainstorming sessions held in July and August to generate ideas for the parish's 50th anniversary celebration in 2022. She asked Parish Council members to review the notes from the two brainstorming sessions, consider what they'd like to do and begin thinking about organizing into committees. She said she'd like to report out the status of planning for the parish's 50th anniversary celebration to parishioners in December, so they can begin joining committees by January 2020.

In other business, member Bernie McGuire reported that the Knights of Columbus Council 2323 will be celebrating its 100th anniversary of the founding of its council in 2021. He also reported that the Knights would be hosting a pumpkin carving event for children on Oct. 26-27; that the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center will host its banquet in Rockville on Oct. 20; and that the Knights raised over \$1,000 for seminarians during its recent car raffle.

Fr. John also reported that:

- Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory will be celebrating Mass at St. Francis on Feb. 23, 2020.
- A poll would be sent out in January 2020 to determine whether the third Thursday of the month is still the best day for the Parish Council to meet.
- Fr. Bill Ryan's appeal in September yielded more than \$10,000 collected for his missionary work.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.

