

## **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

**February 20, 2020**

### **Assisi Room**

*Members in attendance:* Fr. John Dillon, Anna Breece, Alicia Church, Marianne DeAusen, Linda Foster, Anton Handono, Ron Hays, Chris King, Louise Locke, Travis Tomon and Vincent Price

*Others in attendance:* Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan and Deacon Will Garcia.

During its second meeting of the year, the Parish Pastoral Council formed a Spanish Mass Ad-hoc Subcommittee to study whether the parish should offer a weekly Mass in Spanish, given the influx of Spanish-speaking families in the Derwood area.

Deacon Will Garcia said the parish's Spanish Ministry prays the Rosary every Tuesday in the church but expressed that ministry members are interested in having a Mass that is primarily in Spanish. He referenced residents in the nearby Airpark community who attend Spanish Masses at St. Catherine Labouré in Wheaton and St. John Neuman and St. Martin of Tours, both in Gaithersburg.

Ron Hays presented demographics that could support the need for a Spanish Mass, with the numbers of Hispanics having increased 10 to 15 percent and the number of Caucasians having fallen 10 percent.

With Fr. John calling the issue "an important priority for us to discuss over the next year," Executive Committee Chair Alicia Church said she believes an ad-hoc committee should study the issue, drill down and present some recommendations to the Parish Council in the next month.

Members Marianne DeAusen and Ron Hays volunteered to serve on the ad-hoc subcommittee, along with Deacon Will.

In other business, as part of the parish's recently conducted audit, Fr. John said the Parish Pastoral Council should be seeing the budget. Ron noticed that expenses had gone down \$98,344 and Fr. John said this is due to some restricted fund expenditures for the church's repair and replacement of its roof systems. Fr. John also reported the parish has \$10,000 more in income than expenses.

Fr. John also dedicated much of the meeting to discuss updates of various plans, including the Building Update; the Parish Safety Update and the Small Group Update.

Under the Building Update, Fr. John reported that the parish was nearly done with the roof. With a punch list in hand, the parish held back 5 percent of the \$250,000 price tag to ensure everything would be addressed.

Next steps include a lot of simultaneous construction occurring at the church. The parish is having an acoustical study conducted. Pending approval from the archdiocese, construction crews would also be working to install an elevator from the church's main level down to the Parish Center. They would also improve the exterior lighting, repair the parking lot and construct a room off the Gathering Space. For now, Fr. John said a new piano and organ "may have to wait."

Under the Parish Safety Committee, Fr. John reported that the group is busy drafting a draft emergency medical plan. The committee's priorities will also focus on the following:

- Medical response
- Evacuation response
- Severe weather

Under the Small Group Update, Fr. John reported that the Adult Faith Formation Committee will include *Live Lent!* by Renew International among those books that parishioners read for Lent.

St. Francis of Assisi also heard an update on St. Jude Regional School. Some of the upcoming events included Archbishop Gregory celebrating Mass for the students on March 8 and then joining the St. Jude Gala on March 21.

Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan also gave a brief report on the Communications Ministry at St. Francis. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.