

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2020

Assisi Room

Members in Attendance: Fr. John Dillon, Anna Breece, Alicia Church, Marianne DeAusen, Mark Harang, Anton Handono, Ron Hayes, Bernie McGuire, Ann Pierre, Travis Tomon and Leah Vincent.

Other people in attendance: Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan

Fr. John Dillon asked the Parish Pastoral Council to form an ad-hoc committee to study whether St. Francis of Assisi Parish should offer a Mass in Spanish or other languages to meet the needs of growing populations within the parish.

The pastor's request prompted a discussion that came to light after members of the Spanish Ministry had requested the parish offer a Mass in Spanish. Council members discussed the numbers of other parishes near St. Francis of Assisi Parish that already offer at least one Mass in Spanish. Executive Committee Member Alicia Church stated the committee should consider how many people would attend a Mass offered in another language. Anton Handono also said the council should confirm with the archdiocese whether a Mass in a foreign language is needed, given our parish demographics and what's already offered in neighboring parishes.

After the meeting was called to order just after 7:30 pm, Church discussed the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Dance on Feb. 1. She said that everyone who volunteers in a parish ministry is invited to attend, but those who RSVP must say how many will be in their party. Church also said that Parish Pastoral Council members should attend and greet volunteers.

The council also heard Ministry Reports from the Communications Ministry, Adult Faith Formation Ministry, Social Concerns Ministry and Religious Education. The Communications Ministry reported on the recent Offertory Stewardship Appeal, which had then drawn a 29 percent response rate from parishioners committing to giving to the parish offertory, and promotion of Lenten events, such as Hoops for Haiti on March 14. The Adult Faith Formation Ministry reported on Small Groups continuing to meet on the second half of the Gospel of Matthew; Lenten Small Groups will begin studying the Sunday Gospel readings beginning the week of March 1, with participants using the *Live Lent!* study resource published by RENEW International to guide discussions.

The Social Concerns Ministry reported on several initiatives, including Haiti Committee fundraising events; the parish's raising of \$34,000 supplementing a \$120,000 grant from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to rebuild the church at Conversion of St. Paul's Parish in Leon, Haiti; the upcoming Catholic Charities Coat Drive on January 18/19 and the Lenten Food Drive on March 21/22; and the rescheduling this spring of Fr. Boxie's talk on racism and Dr. Susan Timoney's ministry leadership retreat on "Living as Missionary Disciples." The Religious Education Ministry also reported that First Penance is scheduled to take place on Jan. 4; it was ultimately rescheduled for Jan. 25 because of weather conditions on Jan. 4.

In other ministry reports, St. Jude Regional School liaison Anna Breece reported on Catholic Schools Week activities taking place at the school the week of Jan. 26-Feb. 1 and the school's gala on March 21. Knights of Columbus member Bernie McGuire reported on the Spaghetti Dinner benefitting the Haiti Ministry taking place the weekend of Jan 26. Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan also reported on the work of the Parish Security Committee, with council members requesting that they be briefed on what the security committee's priorities would be in preparing for unforeseen events at the parish.

In other business, Church reiterated that the parish's 50th anniversary planning should begin soon; her hope is that the parish will sponsor at least one event each month in the year leading up to the anniversary. Ideas that the parishioners brainstormed we do include having a pig roast and outdoor Mass; celebrating a Mass that recognizes founding parishioners; and documenting the parish's history through audio and visual vehicles. After council members discussed when the actual commemoration of our 50th anniversary should begin, Fr. John stated that he likes the idea of making the year beginning January 2022 marking the kickoff of our anniversary year celebration.

Under other new business, Fr. John stated that the Adult Faith Formation Committee is looking at using *Living the Eucharist* as a Small group effort in 2021. He also reported that Msgr. Robert Amey would perform his triennial visit at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on Jan. 30. Fr. John said he will meet with parish staff, the Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council.

Fr. John also told council members that Fr. William Brailsford had moved into the parish Rectory on Jan. 13. Fr. Brailsford has already started hearing Confessions at church and will work up to celebrating Mass. He also gave an update on the ongoing roof repair, saying Minkoff Construction was continuing to address some of its repair work where water had pooled. Fr. John said the archdiocese would not pay the company until the roof work was fixed correctly. He also said the parish would begin looking at the acoustics of the church after the roof repair work is completed. The next priorities will be installing an elevator from the church to the Parish Center and building the room off the Gathering Space.

Under upcoming events, Fr. John reminded the Parish Pastoral Council that Archbishop of Washington Wilton D. Gregory would celebrate the 11:15 am Mass at St. Francis on Sunday, Feb. 23.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.