

SLDM Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 8, 2020, 7:00pm (School Library)

Scribe: Louie Jorczak

Attendees: Father Haan, Father Sean, Louie Jorczak, Chad Greene, Patrick Carter, Bryan John, Gene Dustman, Jeff Oelker, Ange Bailey (via phone), Emily Colemanar, Jamie Anderson, Alan Lessard, Scot Boutcher, and Mark Mader.

Absent: Jeff Grasser

Agenda Items:

1. Opening Prayer:

- Father Haan led the Council in opening prayer.

2. Introductions of Pastor, Associate Pastor, Council Members, and Role of Council

- Parish Council members introduced themselves and state why they want to be on the council, how long they've been with the council, the parish, etc. Father Haan and Father Sean similarly introduce themselves to the council.
- Role of a Parish Council — Father Haan outlined his goals for how he would like to work with the group. Father Haan reiterated that it is a two-way street between the council and the pastors, and that communication is the key to a productive working relationship. The pastors need to know what the people in the pews are wanting and needing. Father Haan discussed the council's role as a sounding board once a month whose input will be highly valued. Father Haan expressed his thanks for the welcome party that we had for the new pastors in August.
- Jeff Oelker located governing documents, including the covenant for staff and council. Jeff will be sending a copy of these documents to the group. The governing documents describe the nature of the council as an advisory body, and Father Haan will be relying on the council for such advice.

3. Approval of August Minutes.

- Alan Lessard moved to approve minutes. Emily Colemanar seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

4. August Parish Report

- Jeff Oelker gave an update on the state of the parish for August, 2020.
 - We saw our former priests off, and got ready to welcome Fathers Haan and Sean.
 - It's a busy time of year for the staff. The parish on-boarded new employees; there were rate changes, but no salary adjustments.
 - Dinner for Father Pat – Father Pat was presented with a check to help him with retirement. Father Pat was very touched, and it was a really nice send off.
 - Parish Priority Plan/Parish Activities — Father wants to hear in the meetings how the Parish Priority Plan and various parish activities are being implemented. With respect to present efforts, below is a sampling of the items under consideration for this year:

- ✓ Faith formation team-how to pull off Religious Education? Do we give people a virtual option or have in person?
- ✓ RCIA and Alpha will have distance/virtual offerings.
- ✓ CHRP daily retreat is an option.
- ✓ H.S. Ministry. Dave Neeson has contacted the students and they are forming small groups this year with coaches. Council members Chad Greene and Bryan John are assisting in this coaching effort.
- ✓ School-in person 100% - no reported cases as of the date of the meeting, and the school is taking all precautions. Generally, the students are loving being back, and are fine with the protocols. Enrollment is at an all-time high—509. Target ceiling is 540-the school couldn't take more than that. Staff is doing well, happy feel supported, feel safe, happy to be back. PTO will do monthly treats (stocking fridge, popcorn, etc.). Teachers went above and beyond in handling the pandemic and the parish appreciates their dedication and hard work.

5. *Weekend Mass Capacity Issues and “At-Risk” Mass*

- Current capacity is 250. There have been a handful of masses where more than 250 people have appeared for mass (284 at one 11:30 mass).
 - Jeff Oelker made a chart to assist with the logistics of mass attendance, and is planning to see a 5-week “bump up” period. The challenge is planning for increased mass attendance, in conjunction with Religious Education starting up. The church has responded to increased attendance by setting up chairs in the narthex, and setting up extra cry room chairs. Ultimately, it was determined that a live-stream option in the basement would be the most practical option at this time for overflow crowds, and this is how the group worked to that decision:
 - ✓ Turning people away, or using Craig Willy Hall as an option for an overflow mass, are not considered feasible alternatives. Our pastors have enough on their plate without having to be on standby in case there is overflow and a mass needs to be conducted in an alternative location. The red tape on the pews, and people distancing themselves have been successful, but there was a general discussion about taking the red tape away in some sections.
 - ✓ One suggestion was a six-foot dowel rod system which could be moved around at the convenience of church goers, and provide for large families while still leaving space within the pews.
 - ✓ Live-stream in the church basement is another alternative for the overflow crowd.
 - ✓ The general consensus was that the only one thing should be changed at a time to minimize confusion.
 - ✓ Live stream - Merton Room. Father Haan agreed that the easiest thing is live stream—there would be no need for an announcement, the ushers would just know to conduct parishioners downstairs once we have met the maximum.

- ✓ Another Eucharistic Minister (“EM”) for overflow. Those in narthex could use the same EM as overflow downstairs.
- 7:30 a.m. Sunday mass is still designated as the “at risk” mass. Having an “at-risk” mass is still mandated by the diocese. That mandate has not been lifted.

6. Adoration Chapel

- September 28 is the official 25th anniversary of the adoration chapel. Father Haan had a meeting with Mrs. Kunkel and Mrs. Wright, as well as the staff, and there is a desire to have a celebration near that date (in early October). We want to recognize the anniversary and encourage more adorers. There will be a Eucharistic procession after 11:30 mass, and the Knights of Columbus will be providing food. An e-mail communication asking people to sign up will be sent out. Emily Colemenar has agreed to be on the Eucharistic Adoration taskforce.

7. Parish Communications

- Parish content sharing platform was discussed. There has been an “app” in the past, but this issue still keeps coming up, and alternative forms of communication were discussed.
- Currently, live-stream masses can be found on Facebook. There was consideration of posting homilies. Apparently this was something done in the past and there is renewed interest in that.
- Formation talks were also suggested. This could be done on a simple recording device and posted so parishioners could access and download talks. There was talk of a parish podcast, and renewed talks of a parish app. Chad Greene is going to contact a developer.
- Discussion was held surrounding communicating with RCIA, HS Youth Ministry, and the Adult Ministry. Questions were asked about how to communicate, communication strategy, target audience, when to send communications and format (i.e. Facebook, website, newsletter, bulletin — it needs to go through all mediums). Amanda Kizer is the staff member in charge of communication, and these things should be coordinated through her office.
- Fr. Haan is interested in Chad Greene’s idea. Father Haan wants to have a stockpile of talks—record things and tuck them away for future reference.

8. Open Forum

- Mark Mader raised the issue of how to keep Catholics engaged. An issue was identified regarding the number of parents that actively attend mass. Many of the Religious Ed. students say that they don’t go to church with their families, and are only in attendance because they have to be. Studies were mentioned that find that where the father in a household goes to church with kids, the kids are 90% likely to go. Engaging parents - how do we continue to engage, engage better? Gap between 2nd-grade to High School is an issue. Fr. Haan mentions Guerin Catholic survey. Data is helpful, but Father Haan does not think that any additional or specific data is necessary; the parish simply needs to beef up parent education.
- Alan Lessard raised the issue of changes to the mass rubrics. Father Haan was not aware of changes. Server training has been scheduled, and there are going to be minor tweaks to approaching mass. Next steps are in October—many dioceses are requiring annual formation of EM’s. Though our diocese is not requiring it, Father Haan would like to implement it at SLDM. Altar servers are second on the list for

additional formation. This is to make sure that they are being appropriately instructed on their role in the mass.

- Gene Dustman reiterated issues with tweaking communications strategy.
- Emily Colemanar raised the issue of expectations of Parish Council. What should the role be with respect to ministries? Father Haan did not think that as ministry liaisons, a monthly communication was necessary. Regular contact with ministry members was encouraged so the liaisons could be a resource. Formalized reports were not considered helpful.

9. Meeting Scheduling

- Second Tuesday of the month works. Next meetings will be October 13 and November 10. The School Library will be the location moving forward.

10. Closing Prayer –Father Sean led the closing prayer.

Next Meeting: The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th @ 7:00pm – School Library.