

SLDM Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13, 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, Emily Colemanar, Alan Lessard, Jeff Grasser, Scot Boutcher, and Mark Mader.

Absent: Jamie Anderson

Agenda Items:

1. *Opening Prayer:*

- Father Haan led the Council in opening prayer.

2. *Approval of Minutes* – September 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved as amended.

3. *Church Attendance – Partial Implementation of Overflow Plan*

- Discussion surrounded options for over-flow crowd that were considered in the September 2020 meeting. Live streaming the mass in the basement was scrapped as unworkable due to internet connectivity, personnel limitations, and other logistical issues.
- Amended red tape restrictions were implemented. Father Sean observed that the way the red tape had been placed on the pews resulted in fewer available seats. Because of an odd number of rows both the front pews and the back pews were restricted, where additional pews could be opened with a slight modification.

4. *Parish App.*

- Chad Greene evaluated two app developers in order to make a recommendation for a Parish App.
- Developer “Sub-Splash” gave Chad the run-around regarding price.
- “My Parish” is an app that Chad likes and knows that several parishes use. It’s \$50/month, but the first three months and the \$50 start-up fee would be waived. The benefits of My Parish are that audio could be posted, it would link to the parish calendar, it would have the capability to share all materials on all platforms, and it generally has the capability to pull things from the website. Father Hann wants a list of churches that use it and would like to tie it to a goal in the Parish Priority Plan in order to determine how it fits into our larger communication strategy. Father Haan has taken the recommendation of Parish App under advisement.

5. *Parish Priority Plan*

- Father Haan and Jamie Anderson had a meeting to discuss the Parish Priority Plan (“PPP”). Father Haan loves that it gives the priests a road map and he would like to study it in the coming months with a little guidance and context from the Council and parish staff. He would like to discuss this document at the next meeting and determine what things may have become irrelevant (if any), what things have been checked off the check list, and what is higher up on the priority

list and what is lower. Father will be discussing these issues with staff, and would like to recall this document for the next meeting and get a full dialogue going.

6. *Parish Council Covenant Booklet*

- Much discussion was held about the process outlined in the documents related to the selection of new Council members. There is a rather drawn out election process provided for in the parish documents, which process seems to be ill-suited to the Council's purpose. Father Haan has little interest in going through an election process for the Council. The Council is an advisory body and not a legislative one, and an application process with approval from members and the priests appear to be the more appropriate selection method. Father Haan suggested that the covenants be amended, but this is not a high priority.

7. *25th Anniversary Adoration Chapel Celebration*

- It was generally discussed that the Adoration Chapel Anniversary Celebration was a great event with a tremendous turnout. People were very impressed. It was discussed that this was a good thing and members asked if this was coming back regularly. Father Haan indicated that he was considering similar Eucharistic processions around the more traditional Holy Days, including Corpus Christi, for which Father Haan would like to begin planning. Father Haan expressed his hope that our parishioners' faith would increase with this devotional experience and would encourage more Eucharistic devotion. It does not have to be limited to once a year, but we also do want to keep it special (perhaps 2-3 times a year). St. Louis De Montfort's feast day was also considered as a good candidate for a procession date. Processing off campus is a goal, but the logistics for that need to be carefully considered and it must be safe. Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus who did a great job providing food for the celebration and who looked fantastic in the full regalia. Also, many thanks are extended to Terri Delaney for her work with the music for the event. The event was a fantastic success, with upwards of 150 people, and exceeded all expectations.

8. *Diocese Issues*

- Uniting in Heart (pastoral planning)
 - St. Louis De Montfort parish did not combine, yet we are still a pastorate even though we are one parish. Diocese knew that a lot of parishes did not have great procedures, business plans, evangelical outlook, etc., and knew parishes needed mutual support. It was more feasible to share staff.
 - Some parishes were teetering on the brink of closing. The Diocese wanted to push more local decision making, but also to break down parochial barriers. Shared resources, ideas, programs, mutual enrichment, more team work, and less competition were also goals. Added benefits are that our priests got moved and get a fresh start.
 - We are still working through the turbulence and dust settling from these changes. Some people were upset in other parishes and thought their priests were being taken away.
 - Fr. Haan has done his best to get to know the parish, but wants to connect with area pastors as well. SLDM has going for it the history of evangelization of the lost and fallen away. Our PPP would appear to be a perfect mesh with the United in Heart program. We're not just maintaining

a club, we have to see each other as missionaries to the lost and fallen away. Those jarred by changes probably missed that central fact, and communications regarding the program have been obscure, which probably has not helped.

- Hearts on fire is theme for Catholic Ministry Appeal
 - If SLDM doesn't hit its goal, it will have to pay the difference. Some people decided not to contribute to the appeal because of scandals. Father Haan will always respect a person's disposition when it comes to scandal. Father thinks one thing to work together on, whatever it looks like when COVID begins to lift, is the new evangelization program (door to door, phone calls, etc.).

9. Open Forum

- The Council will not meet again prior to the Presidential election. Council members raised a general concern that troubles could ensue as a result of the election and parish needs to be prepared for the worst (i.e. protests, violence, etc.).
- Security issues have been something that the Council has discussed in the past, and we circled back on these issues. It was discussed that perhaps the solution is to form a committee to look at the most prudent options, including a thorough training program for ushers.
- It was discussed that the Church should be open during the election as a spiritual place for people to come to pray for our country. Moving the adoration to the main chapel was discussed for the election, and it was generally agreed that this is a good idea. It was determined that it should be from Sunday to Wednesday and should begin with benediction.
- Response from pulpit pitches for EM's, ushers, etc. 145 EM's on roster. A major frustration is people not showing up. Letter or email to EM's to discern their service was recommended. Father will work on that correspondence. Altar Server training is progressing. Father Haan has been given positive feedback on the modest changes he has implemented in the liturgy.
- Praying of the rosary prior to mass appears to be a successful change. The church appears to be more reverent prior to mass and more people are participating, even if they are starting the rosary late. 25 minutes prior to the start of mass still appears to be the best start time.

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

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