

## Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Zoom Meeting

November 14, 2020

### **Opening Prayer – the Our Father.**

Council members present: Alex Amado, Kelsi Benton (youth member) Rob Cassleman, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Jim Lincoln, Eric Patera, Mary Schweitzer, Char Snekvik (chair) and Charlotte Worthy. Also present: Dan Jinguji for the Faith Formation Commission, and Mary Sutherland, Parish Secretary.

**Commission Report** – Faith Formation presentation by Dan Jinguji. The report is attached to the bulletin email and posted on the church website. Dan added that, in the spring after we closed down, we petitioned the Bishop, and were allowed to receive two people into the church. Several children made their First Communion at outdoor & parking lot Masses. They are scheduled to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 17 with Bishop Daly.

There are many challenges, but we are adapting. Our youth and children need interaction. The council members want the Faith Formation board to realize they are doing the best they can, and encourage them to keep coming up with new ideas.

The Eucharistic Miracles display mentioned in the report is a touring display of 84 panels that contain historical descriptions, photographs, and illustrations of Eucharistic Miracles around the world. The display will be at Sacred Heart March 13 & 14. We can't have a service, but people can come to look. It is in Spanish and English. It will start in the social hall, and tables will be set up leading up to the church, where people could do Adoration a few at a time.

**Liturgy and Worship: Plans for up-coming Masses and events.** Thanksgiving Day Mass will be livestreamed at 10 am. Should we have Mass at St. Thomas More for Advent & Christmas? The council members discussed this with member Dr. Aurora Horstkamp. The conclusion was no, we won't have Masses indoors, we can't be responsible for spreading the virus. Recently the spread is from small gatherings of family, friends, and in restaurants. It is highly risky to gather. Virtual Masses are appropriate. We are thinking of the parishioners' and Fr. Steve's safety and health first.

**Idea for Christmas & Epiphany.** Could we make Communion available in family groups with a minister in the church? Limit how many come in at a time? We could have a reservation system. The decision was that we shouldn't do it indoors. Accumulated time exposed to people at close range is dangerous for the ministers. We can use the side gathering area outside to the right of the church. The nativity set can be out there, and heaters. We could give out Communion all afternoon on Christmas Eve. It could be like the Shepherd's Square in Rome.

**Hispanic Ministry:** There will not be an in-person service for Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Members discussed how people could celebrate. We can make a little grotto with the icon in the side greeting area. People can bring flowers.

We have two people in addition to Alex to join the new Hispanic Pastoral Council. Fr. Steve would like to meet with them. Alex will find out when that will work, Saturdays are fine. Fr. Steve is still presiding at baptisms, with a limited number of people, with masks. Confession is by appointment with masks, inside the church, but not in the confessional.

## **Finance and Administration Commission**

**PPP loan** – We received an email saying they are now taking requests for forgiveness, and they attached a form. We took out a \$46,000 loan to pay full salaries. We used the loan to pay staff. The government will forgive loans under \$50,000. We could pay it back if we need to.

**Maintenance & Repairs** – The steeple roof is finished; they are still supposed to repair the roof over the annex. The parking lot will have to wait until spring.

**Parish Fundraising** for Sacred Heart Improvement Fund – how is it going? There is a thermometer on our webpage. We have \$9,000 out of \$20,000 so far.

## **Community Outreach**

**Ecumenical committee** – Rob talked to people at a couple of other churches. They said it would be helpful to identify a focus. Fr. Steve said the first thing to do is plan a joint prayer service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. After the pandemic is over. That is a traditional week for Christians to get together and pray. That event can grow into shared discussion groups, pulpit exchanges, etc. Eventually it may grow into the communities inviting each other to join in events. He has seen congregations form a covenant, a formal relationship. Rob needs other parishioners to help. Fr. Steve said parishioner Ann Heath is interested.

**Community Engagement committee** – Fr. Steve attended a Zoom meeting at WSU about how the university can engage with religions in the community. He was happy to find out that parishioner Karen Fischer is on that committee also.

Rob and Fr. Steve of the Community Engagement Committee had a great meeting with the Sacred Heart Youth Group. The question of how the parish could engage with them evolved into a discussion about communication. Youth are engaged online in conversation far above what we would imagine. A couple teens received training on how to have a healthy dialogue on issues. Fr. Steve and Rob were very impressed with the teens who participated and shared their thoughts. Kelsi said that is great to hear. They are learning how to politely share opinions. But they get lots of criticism. Hearing that the council members notice and give youth credit means a lot. Fr. Steve's big take-away from the meeting is that our youth are more engaged than we would dream. In Pope Francis' most recent letter, he noted that the world is changing. The youth are our experts in helping us understand that change.

**Pastoral Council Constitution and By Laws questions follow up:** Rob and Char discussed some questions, and figured most of them out. Next fall, the council should probably look at the constitution & bylaws. Some changes are needed.

**List of people on committees:** We could put the list of people on committees on a sheet in the directory, which we are hoping to get out early in 2021. Every year we could put out a sheet with a list. When people's cell numbers and emails are in the bulletin or online, they get fake texts and emails, purporting to be from Fr. Steve. We need to be careful.

**Char did a great job with the state of the parish report.** Thanks to Fr. Steve & Mary, too.

**We will have parking lot Mass this weekend and next,** weather permitting. We will keep on having parking lot Masses through December if the weather is ok.

**Next meeting is Saturday, December 12, at 10 am.**

**Closing prayer:** Glory Be.

Submitted by Mary Sutherland