

Minutes: Sacred Heart Pastoral Council

March 8, 2020

Members present: Alex Amado, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Jim Lincoln, Kevin Owens, Eric Patera (acting chair), and Charlotte Worthy. Rob Cassleman and Char Snekvik were present via phone.

Also present: Dave Schneider, from the Faith Formation Board, and Mary Sutherland, Parish Secretary.

The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer.

Commission Report: Dave Schneider gave the Faith Formation Commission report. (It is attached or inserted with this report). He noted that the Youth Group is hosting Adoration again at 6:30 pm Sunday, March 15. Their first order of chocolate bars to raise money for the mission trip sold out, so they ordered more. Those are not selling as fast, possibly because of Lent.

Three people will be interviewed for the position of Faith Formation Secretary next week.

Theresa Paul asked the parents to let her know if their children will be absent from Faith Formation classes on Sundays so that the teachers know how many children to expect. That worked.

Because of the COVID-19 virus we are currently not receiving from the cup at Mass. Since that is an important experience for First Communion, Fr. Steve will have separate cups for each first communicant at the Easter Vigil and for First Communion on April 18.

Council members wondered how the Sunday evening Sacrament Nights are working out for parents and children. Is this helping the parents instruct their children? Dave will find out and report back.

The parish will have a booth at the Pullman ArtFest. Dave is going to find out if we can have information available at the WSU Alive sessions for incoming freshmen this summer. There may be an information fair at one of the lunches on the first or second day of each session. The communications committee could work on a joint Sacred Heart/St. Thomas More brochure so students would know the Catholic options in town.

Update on Health Issues: Fr. Steve video-recorded the March 7 Saturday evening Mass using the existing camera in the church. It is on YouTube, with links on the parish website and social media. He can improve the sound quality. Members thought he should continue to record and post his homilies so that people who are staying home due to health concerns have options.

The precautions in response to COVID-19 were implemented this weekend. What further steps will we need to take? Should the basket be passed at the collection? Or should there be a basket in the aisle on the way in? That presents possible security issues. Ushers could go down each aisle and hold out the basket – we don't have any of the baskets on poles which the insurance company recommends.

If the outbreak worsens, Mass may have to be cancelled. Having online giving available will be a very helpful in that case.

Parish Goals: The council needs to schedule a longer meeting to work on parish goals. April 25 is the suggested date. Fr. Steve noted that the staff is working on the goals, also. They have selected dates for photo shoots for a new parish directory. We could also ask people to upload their own family photos.

Building Committee Update: The committee met with the architects, who gathered information from the committee about what the parish needs in a remodeled or new facility. The feasibility study should be done by mid-April. The architects are going to schedule a full-day look at the current church.

The owner of the land off Wawawai Drive accepted our offer but reduced the closing time to 90 days. We would have 60 days to complete and analyze the feasibility study, then 30 days to do the closing paperwork. The committee needs to respond to that.

When the feasibility study is completed, it goes to the building committee, and then then finance committee and pastoral council. The information will be presented to the parish in May or June.

Council Meetings, doughnuts, etc.: The council scheduled a meeting for 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 25. The next regular meeting is Sunday, April 19 at the usual time and place. Mary Sutherland will be out of town on April 19.

The council is scheduled for coffee and doughnuts on March 22. Mary will send out an email asking for help.

The council is signed up to bring soup, bread, etc. for Prayer, Bread & Soup on April 1.

Ministry to Spanish-speaking parishioners: Alex reported that there is no Palm Sunday Spanish Mass at St. Thomas More this year. So we may have more people attending Mass at Sacred Heart than usual. It would be good to have at least one reading in Spanish. It would also be very helpful to have Fr. Steve's homily translated and printed out in Spanish for people to pick up when they come in to church. We should also have some bilingual Spanish/English missals available. The last Spanish Mass at WSU until fall is on May 3.

We will also plan to have at least one session of the Stations of the Cross in alternating English and Spanish.

Submitted by Mary Sutherland.