

Sacred Heart Pastoral Council Zoom meeting April 25, 2020

Members present: Alex Amado, Rob Cassleman, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Jim Lincoln, Kevin Owens, Eric Patera, Mary Schweitzer, Char Snekvik (chair) and Charlotte Worthy. Also present: Bill Engels, Community Outreach Commission, and Mary Sutherland, Secretary.

The meeting opened with the Our Father.

Community Outreach Commission Report: (It is posted or attached with these notes). Bill Engels noted that the Caritas Committee has \$500 left that should be disbursed by June 30, 2020. They would like to know if the council has any recommendations about where to send the money. Also, there is an ongoing need for food drive donations. The Family Promise fundraiser was postponed, they need help. We are still collecting glass and plastic film. Please bring it to church and let others know.

The consensus was that the economic impact of the coronavirus is just beginning to hit this area. Caritas should hold on to the money for a little while, and the parish will wait to distribute more food bank money until we see where the need is greatest. Bill will pass the suggestion on to Caritas.

Homeless man – The man who was at the parish last fall and again the past few weeks was arrested for indecent exposure. We need to move to a restraining order if he returns.

Diocesan Year of the Eucharist: Bishop Daly will announce a Year of the Eucharist starting on the feast of Corpus Christi (June 14). It will be an opportunity for the parish to do something special here.

Financial status: So far since the shutdown six weeks ago, contributions are almost identical to last year. From the Third Sunday of Lent through Divine Mercy Sunday this year's total collection including online giving is \$38,143. Last year: \$38,290.

There is an increase in online giving. About 15 families were giving regularly before mid-March with 25 additional families giving online now. The option for giving with an electronic check from a bank account is back on the website. It had gone away for unknown reasons.

Reopening church – We have not received any official instructions yet. Fr. Steve has heard some ideas:

- Have a limited opening. Have people sign up for each Mass so there will not be too many.
- Assign people to a Mass by alphabetical order.
- Have one Mass for older people only (probably 4:30 p.m. Saturday).
- However we do it we need to be fair, and also try not to have to turn people away at the door.
- If every other pew is moved together people are six feet apart in front and in back.
- People also need to be six feet apart from side to side, except for family members.
- Need to determine approximately how many people can fit into the church with those restrictions.
- Hand sanitizer and masks for those over two years old will likely be mandatory.
- Fr. Steve will start covering the hosts with a cloth veil so he isn't breathing on them.
- Those giving out communion will wear a mask.
- We won't be back to normal for at least one year.
- Some of what we do will depend on regulations.
- Screening people with questions rather than thermometers is better.
- Bishop Daly is concerned about the dignity of the sacraments. No drive-by confessions.
- Discomfort will be present for a while. Older people will still want livestreaming.

Building Committee updates: – **Feasibility study:** The Castellaw Kom Architects (CKA) are taking longer than expected to finish the study because of adjusting to working from home. They spent five hours looking at everything in the church campus on Monday, April 20. The parish has six furnaces and five water heaters, all about 20 years old. They are working on completing the study.

Sunnyside property: Our offer was accepted; nothing is signed yet. A land survey is on hold until we signal that we are moving forward. They could sell to someone else, but it is unlikely at this point.

Moscow-Pullman Highway Property: They are offering as much land as we want. There are potential problems with getting Catholic Charities onboard. If we don't get a partner for the land, the city will not bring in the utilities for just us. Then it will be very expensive – wells, tanks, fire suppression, etc.

Next Steps: As soon as we have the feasibility study, we'll know the prices for each option. The building committee will review the study, then discuss it with the finance council and pastoral council. Eventually there will be a parish wide meeting, but probably not until September at the earliest due to COVID-19.

Nominating Process: Char, Eric, and Lorraine's terms on the council are expiring. It would be difficult to have nominations and find new people. Now is not a good time to change. Fr. Steve requests that people stay on for another term. The next year will be a hard year. We need steady hands.

Short term goals (1-3 years). Most things are on hold.

Faith Formation did get people to sign up for Flocknote. The Sacrament Nights for parents were working, but have been postponed now. We don't know when the children will receive the sacraments.

Liturgy: We had to start livestreaming. It still won't work if the church is full, need to work on that. People can watch on Facebook starting at our website, and on YouTube after it is posted. Council members thanked Fr. Steve for doing that. Close to 100 people are watching the livestream 7:15 a.m. Mass; far more than usually attend in person. It would be good to continue livestreaming it.

Cultural: On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we included one song and one reading in Spanish. We had planned that because we thought Spanish community would be there but were closed. It was helpful, although many are watching live-streamed Masses from their home parishes in Mexico. On our website we have resources for praying at home on Sunday. We have links to Spanish scripture readings. The rest of the prayers should be translated. Fr. Steve's messages are translated and sent out to the Spanish community.

We will get bilingual missalettes to use when we completely reopen. We need to translate Fr. Steve's homily into Spanish. It can be on the website until we open, and then on paper for people to pick up when they come in to church. We will try to have one person reading Spanish and one reading English each week. We need more bilingual readers, and eventually, ushers. Fr. Steve is impressed with the native Spanish readers – it was very clear reading.

Catechism for Spanish-speaking families. The children can learn in English, but bilingual books for the parents are very useful. The parents like the children to learn to pray in Spanish, and want to be able to understand what their children are learning and help them with it.

Stewardship: Fr. Steve & Linea Johnson went to a meeting in Spokane some months ago. There was a big push for parishes to increase their online presence and online giving since those who do experience increasing donations. Those that don't experience decrease. We have upped our online presence from 400 to 500 followers. The goal is to have twice as many followers as families registered. Our goal is 800 followers. We also need to continue to encourage online giving. We sent out postcards encouraging it.

Welcoming: We really need to find a way to welcome people when they are not coming to church. This ties in with an idea for the parish directory. Fr. Steve heard a radio program where a photographer was taking portraits of people on porches. What if Fr. Steve and one or two others with a zoom lens went to parishioner's homes this summer to do that? Families would dress as they wished. The pictures could go in the parish directory. When new families come, Fr. Steve could go there, meet them at a distance, and photograph them. Council members liked that idea. The picture would just be in a directory book printed by a local printer, and given only to parishioners, the info won't go online.

Safety committee: They need a Zoom meeting to help plan how to open the church. How to greet, how to sanitize the church, etc. There is a whole new set of questions.

Breaking ground – Five years or so out. We won't know until the feasibility study is done.

Sex abuse crisis – The Gonzaga talk is now online. It was not that helpful. There's not a lot we can do right now. The diocese will be audited this year. Our Faith Formation team is working on that.

Loan application: We filled out a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan application asking for about \$46,000 to cover salaries. We didn't get into the first batch. May get into second round. That would be a good help. It covers payrolls. If you show you used it for salary, you don't have to repay it. The musicians aren't getting paid because not doing Mass. Some of staff are on reduced hours, this makes sure everyone gets a full salary for the month.

Pastoral Council retreat: We should have another big retreat in September, talk about short & long-term goals. A lot could change by then. We might have a better direction by September.

Outreach ministry: We are currently not allowed to go into nursing homes, etc. Outreach not happening. We are still taking written material in. They wipe it down. Need to rethink ministry and reinvent church.

Extending terms for members: Rob made a motion to keep Char Snekvik, Eric Patera, and Lorraine Farrand on the pastoral council for second terms. The motion carried.

Attending Mass: The Masses that are live-streamed each morning are closed to everyone except a few people who are helping serve, read, and record the Mass.

Next meeting: Sunday, May 17, 9:45 a.m. on Zoom. Planned for one hour. And Sunday, June 14.