

## Pastoral Council Zoom meeting 9-13-20

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: Mary Sutherland, Parish Secretary.

The meeting opened with the Our Father.

**Faith Formation Commission:** Members had read the Faith Formation Board report, which was attached to the September 13 bulletin, and is posted on our website. The board is trying to be very flexible with faith instruction for families – some want online lessons, some prefer workbooks, and both will be offered.

At the Prepares Zoom meeting on Saturday Sept. 12, they discussed how to reach families with children under five. Children that age like to receive mail, they may mail out the Gospel coloring pages, stickers, etc.

### **Liturgy & Worship Commission:**

**Mass Attendance:** The average attendance the last three weeks was: 4:30 pm: 35, 8:30 am: 45, and 10 or 11 am: 35. The parking lot Mass on August 16 was very well-attended with over 90 cars.

**Mass plans for the future:** Fr. Steve reported that the parish purchased two more of the large white tent canopies. They can be used for Oktoberfest post-pandemic. According to the governor's instructions for outdoor services, two sides of a tent can be closed if you have good air ventilation. Propane heaters for the tents is possible.

We are in dialogue with Gladish. They now charge \$2 per person for the large gym. Its capacity is 700 plus. The gym might be safe for the small groups of 30 to 50 that attend the weekend outdoor Masses. We need to know what time a local church is meeting in the Gladish View Room and how much room they take up in the parking lot. We were looking into using Beasley Coliseum on Christmas Eve, but it appears to be closed. We could see if Schweitzer would make an exception for the event center for Christmas.

The speakers we were using for outdoor Mass were from St. Thomas More. We are currently renting speakers from Atom Heart Music, 20 weeks for \$200. It is a great deal. Better speakers are on order.

Parking lot Masses – August 16 was very well attended. We could have them every week if the movie theater agreed. Fr. Steve will look to see if radio broadcasters are available now, they were sold out in the spring. Then people could keep their windows shut in cold weather.

**Safety:** Council member and Safety Committee member Dr. Aurora Horstkamp noted that the positivity rate for COVID-19 tests is 16 to 20% at WSU right now, and the curve will inevitably go up. We are in a surge compared to March and April. At the hospital, 22% of tests are positive. The council discussed the safety of outdoor and parking lot Masses at this time. Fr. Steve doesn't want anyone getting sick from coming to Mass. The virus has already spread to some older people. Active numbers are high.

This week Fr. Steve has an interview with a reporter from a tv station on campus. If Fr. Steve says we're shutting down it would send a very strong message. The council voted to shut down all in-person Masses, prayer groups, rosary, adoration, etc., until conditions improve.

We need to give a good example by shutting down. We will still have everything online, including the Sunday homily and the readings to use at home. Just four people are needed to livestream and videotape daily Mass. Fr. Steve will get the message to St. Thomas More on campus that this is what we're doing, and recommend that they follow suit.

**Community Outreach Commission Report:** It is attached and posted online with the council minutes. It includes reports from lots of different groups.

### **Finance & Administration Commission:**

**ACA rebate:** The parish finally received a \$12,000 rebate from the diocese. Fr. Steve presented several options for it. The council decided to use the money to start a fund called Spanish Ministry. The money will pay to bring a priest to Pullman twice a month (or more) who will say Mass in Spanish, when it is safe to do so again.

Fr. Paul at WSU can't say Mass in Spanish, and people really miss that. There are more than 60 people who may attend, and the more regularly Spanish Mass is offered, the higher the attendance will be. Alex Amado, council member and spokesperson for the Spanish community, really appreciates the decision. People are hoping for confession in Spanish, also. Spanish Mass will also be outdoors when we are able to do that again.

**Finance report:** At the end of June, the end of the fiscal year, the parish had \$363,000 in operating income. Operating expenses were \$352,000, so we were \$11,000 to the good for 2019-20. There has been a shift to online giving. The current bank account total is \$909,000. \$623,000 is in the building fund. \$202,000 is in general

assets. Financially we're in a good position. We're going to spend good chunks of money on maintenance.

**Payroll protection loan:** We spent it all on payroll. It's still not clear how to get that forgiven. We're working with the bank, and waiting for congress.

**Maintenance:** Mike the bricklayer is probably coming this week. We have the bricks and mortar, but the smoke may delay things. Work on fixing the church steeple rood is also supposed to start this week, we'll see. Fr. Steve learned that we really need a contractor to seal the parking lot; it is not a DIY job. The last time, quite a few years ago, it cost \$10,000. It will probably be \$12-13,000 this time. The patching we did will save money. CTI in Palouse does that kind of work, and they also happen to be the bricklayers. Fr. Steve will contact them. The lot will also be restriped. Eric Patera is scraping the church windowsills. We need to paint the wood before winter.

**Building committee:** – The architects finished the rough draft of the facilities report in late June. It projected a much larger cost for building offsite than for remodeling onsite. However, they were comparing apples to oranges. Their offsite estimates were for an area at least twice as big as what we have now. For the Sunnyside property, they assumed we had to pay for all the infrastructure, when we would actually pay half. The report did give us a good idea of cost per square foot. The building committee asked the architects to revise the study. They will change the size of the offsite construction, use the correct costs, and also add an option for building a new energy efficient facility onsite with green building methods. Something pandemic friendly. Something that works for the future.

The architects hoped to have the revised report ready by early September. But, since there was a delay period on all their projects, and then they started again, they are swamped. They haven't touched our project in two months. But going slow is good at this time of financial uncertainty. It would be great to be on the other side of this time before having to make a decision.

The owner of the Sunnyside property is being very patient. We are trying to keep it as an option, but if something else comes up we understand.

When the final report is ready, it will all go before the parish. We need that essential knowledge before making the plan and deciding on one location. Then we call all give input on the plan, and get donors.

**Update on St. Francis Guild:** They have about \$11,000, including over \$2,000 in funds that can only be used to help with Avista bills. Since they are part of the parish's 501c3, the parish is going to start including their money in the parish accounts, although it will still be in a separate bank account. They have one new member, and another possible member. There have not been as many requests for help as expected, but they have been helping some people with rent, food, gas, and furniture.

**Pastoral Council retreat Saturday Sept. 26, 9 am – 12 pm:** It will be on Zoom. Probably not for three hours. We will go over last year's goals and see how we've done. We'll look at where we want to go for the future. We'll have election of officers and discuss the state of the parish report, which will be recorded and posted on YouTube.

Pope Francis put out a document on the parish. Fr. Steve will give a summary of that. It can help us focus our goals. Fr Steve will send out a link to the document to council members.

**Parish Auction:** We have an "online auction" scheduled for October 24. It will be next to impossible to gather items, photograph, etc., if we are closed down. The council decided to have a fundraiser instead of an auction. We can send out envelopes. Al Farrand and Fr. Steve will work on a letter together.

**Closing Prayer:** The Glory Be.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Sunday, October 11.