

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Zoom Meeting  
January 16, 2021

Council members present: Kelsi Benton, Rob Cassleman, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Diego Kittelson, Jim Lincoln, Eric Patera, Mary Schweitzer, Char Snekvik, Charlotte Worthy, David Whelchel for the Finance & Administration Committee, and Mary Sutherland, parish secretary

**Opening Prayer** - Our Father.

**Finance & Administration Commission Report:** The report is attached, and posted on the website. The **finance update** notes that the total in parish bank accounts increased from \$766,408 at the end of 2019 to \$940,370 at the end of 2020. Total unrestricted assets increased from \$140,358 to \$213,837. Fr. Steve has the full financial report. He commented that the growth in the bottom line is due to receiving \$50,000 for the improvement fund, and \$46,000 from the PPP loan, which was forgiven.

Fr. Steve asked the council if the parish should apply for a potential second round of PPP loans. He doesn't know if we qualify. The consensus was that we shouldn't apply, let others do so who really need it.

**Building committee update:** There is still no news from the architects doing the feasibility study.

**Safety committee update:** They are still working on finding detectors and intercoms that will work with the new Wi-Fi system. The nursery is being moved to the social hall. For the coronavirus response, we are continuing with parking lot and livestreamed Masses.

**Maintenance committee update:** The retaining wall and steps were repaired. The missing steeple shingles were replaced. There is a hole in the ground near the steeple that should be filled. Some trees were removed around Fr. Steve's house. There is one more to remove. The carport cover needs sealing and trim repair. Door and window maintenance was done by the gathering area. There is more to do.

The council discussed whether the parish should have a "handy man". Right now, we rely on volunteers and/or hiring contractors. A parish of our size often has a half-time person. Could we have a contractor service rather than a part time employee? Maybe some of the gardening should be included. We might be able to have a retainer with a contractor. The Finance Council will be asked to look into this and come back with a proposal.

**Gardening committee update:** Several small trees and shrubs were removed or trimmed. Mulch was added, some donated perennial flowers were planted.

**New IT committee?:** There is a proposal to have an IT committee. They would help with event streaming, networks, and communication. And provide recommendations for IT related additions, upgrades, hardware, and software. The committee members would be Kurt Zimmerman, David Whelchel, Kevin Owens, Daniel Johnson, and high school student Anthony Valbert. They already helped research and install new internet service for the church. Zply Fiber (formerly Frontier) didn't have adequate bandwidth. We have a better deal and much better speeds with Spectrum. We now have a coordinated approach for wiring and Wi-Fi. It will expand with our needs and be portable. The work is in progress to install a basic core and a Wi-Fi bridge to the parish house, among other things.

Right now the committee is under Fr. Steve – he formed the committee since he couldn't answer technical questions. It should become a committee of the parish. Pastoral council could put it in the parish structure. The equipment so far will cost about \$3,000. We have money designated for this that was raised through auctions. We have some of same equipment as WSU; it is a great deal. The Ubiquity account will let us manage the whole system remotely. The committee can help us replace a RE computer. It can build one for us and make sure it networks. The committee should make a formal request to the council at the next meeting. It is a little too new now. David recommends that Kurt chair the committee.

**Community Outreach Commission Report:** (The council received it by email, it is also attached and posted.) The various committees did a lot during Christmas. PREPARES collected diapers and wipes, volunteers helped with Family Promise, Helping Hands provided meals to a family whose baby had surgery. The Christmas cards for those in assisted living, etc., went over really well. 360 cards and 175 ornaments were collected and delivered - phenomenal. A number of the people who received them are parishioners.

**Faith Formation Report** (with last week's bulletin and posted on website). RCIA has resumed on Zoom. Grades 1-3 & 4-6 are on Zoom, it is going well. The virtual Christmas play went very well. Sacrament prep has started. Gospel weeklies are mailed out. Flocknotes are sent to families. They are still sending letters to

preschool kids.

The Youth group has ideas for a trip later in the summer. They need a way to send off the seniors. Linea Johnson, the Youth Ministry leader, sent a note and gift card to each of the youth members to re-energize them.

Disciples in Dialogue is coming up. The topic is the Pope's document, Fratelli Tutti. It has political implications, so Fr. Steve waited until after the inauguration. The Pope wants people to talk about it, dialogue.

The Faith Formation Board is considering in-person faith formation for spring since PDS is going back. We are trying to keep teachers safe. A survey will go out to families soon.

Council members asked how the youth members feel about going back to high school in person. Both are somewhat uneasy because they think a number of students won't take the virus precautions seriously.

What do they envision for youth group for upcoming year? Both are seniors, so they will only be there until summer. They expect Zoom meetings until then. They will ask the younger kids what they think. Have the Zoom classes diminished or enhanced how the Youth Group operates? Kind of both – they would rather have them in person, but Zoom meetings are useful for videos. It is hard that there are no volunteer opportunities.

The Eucharistic display is coming up March 13 & 14. It is a traveling display about Eucharistic miracles, collected by a young man in Italy who died and is a candidate for sainthood. We will set it up in the social hall. People will come and look and pray. We will keep people spaced out.

Candlemas is the blessing of candles. We do it every year on February 2. If you want candles blessed, bring them to church, drop them off, pick them up. There is no blessing of throats this year. And no ashes on the forehead, priests will just bless everyone – then sprinkle ashes on their heads.

**Liturgy & worship — Review fact finding Zoom meeting on January 9, 2021 with regard to opening the church for Masses.** Since council member Dr. Aurora Horstkamp couldn't attend this meeting, some of the council members met with her on January 9 to get information about Covid-19 in our area. Conclusions from that meeting were that we don't know what will happen when WSU students return; they may bring new variants with them that are more contagious. We don't know how quickly people will be vaccinated. Indoor activities are still risky. We need to answer a couple of letters from parishioners who would like us to have a plan for opening.

Fr. Steve hasn't drafted anything yet; he has not had time. The forecast for February looks about the same as now. A little snow here and there. No big cold snap. It is feasible to keep doing what we're doing. It is much safer than being indoors. The consensus of the council was to keep on with parking lot Masses for the next six weeks, then re-evaluate.

Should Eucharistic ministers have vaccines? We should encourage parishioners to get vaccinations. We need pictures of parishioners getting shots.

Some parishioners would like a definite plan for when we can meet again. Something that shows a target; the numbers we need to see before we can gather safely. The safety committee needs to meet to figure out a plan, with an outline of what we will do as a parish. The plan can always be re-evaluated. We will schedule a safety committee meeting. Mary will send the Covid-19 information from the meeting with Aurora to the committee.

We will send out vaccine information.

The next meeting is Saturday, February 13, at 10 AM on Zoom.

**Closing prayer:** Glory Be