

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Zoom Meeting

March 13, 2021

Council members present: Rob Cassleman, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Kevin Owens, Jim Lincoln, Mary Schweitzer, and Char Snekvik, Chair. Tammy Barry for the Faith Formation Commission, and Mary Sutherland, parish secretary

Opening Prayer - Our Father. Intentions for parishioner Bob Allan, who is on hospice care, and for Pope Francis on his eighth anniversary as pope.

Faith Formation Commission Report: The report is attached, and posted on the website. Tammy reported this year's small RCIA group meets on Zoom. One participant is in Nigeria, a fiancé of a local woman. In the future the in-person RCIA sessions could still use Zoom or something similar to include out-of-town candidates.

Youth Group has pretty good attendance on Zoom, especially from the middle school. Linea Johnson does a great job. The mission trip is cancelled due to Covid-19, and the company is going out of business because of lack of funds. They will try to do some service projects closer to home.

The virtual Children's Christmas Choir and play is wonderful. Dan Jinguji, the children, and parents did an amazing job putting it together. You can watch it at <https://youtu.be/3IMW4wAex0g>

The council thanked the board for doing a fantastic job under very difficult circumstances.

Small Youth Group faith groups outside at church after school: Linea Johnson, our Youth Ministries coordinator, would like to invite youth group members to meet outside at the church in small faith groups after school in good weather. The council approves as long as they wear masks and social distance.

Council members wonder how many families are participating in faith formation at this point? Are we reaching some families who couldn't get here before? How many children attend the grade 1-3 and 4-6 Zoom classes on Sundays? Should we continue offering online opportunities after we reopen?

Liturgy & Worship Commission:

Has someone been named to replace Dan Jinguji? Fr. Steve has someone in mind.

Our Stations of the Cross video has close to 100 views. Should we make one every year?

Fr. Steve and Kurt Zimmerman are working on a rosary video using art from local churches.

The Hispanic Council is planning bilingual Stations of the Cross on Zoom. They have a Spanish rosary on Zoom already.

New Technology Committee: Do we know who will chair it? No one could remember.

Hispanic Pastoral Council: They have met twice on Zoom with Fr. Steve. The members so far are pastoral council member Alex Amado, Sandra Gallardo and Gia Perez. They would like to have Mass with a Spanish speaking priest at least once a month so that they can have confession in Spanish. Fr. Steve will celebrate a second Spanish Mass each month; the members will help him with his Spanish pronunciation. Sandra will organize a choir as she has before. Mass will be at 1 pm so the priest can get back to Spokane before dark in the winter. Fr. Steve purchased a Spanish sacramentary. They will look into getting Oregon Catholic Press to donate some Spanish music. The Masses will start in May, probably outside. They would like to have a couple special things at the 10 am Easter Sunday Mass. One is to sing the hymn, Resucitó. Another is for Fr. Steve to craft a message in Spanish.

The Hispanic Council has lots of energy and is thankful for the opportunity. They ask for patience, since it will take a while to get the word out and get people used to coming to Mass at Sacred Heart.

Coronavirus: Continued discussion of how and when to return in-person to church: Fr. Steve came up with some numbers. 25% capacity for our church, including the annex and balcony, is 59 people. If all are from different households that number goes down to 40. Bishop Daly says that the obligation to attend Mass will resume on Corpus Christi Sunday, June 6. A number of people will probably not be fully vaccinated by that point. This state is behind schedule on vaccinations.

Dr. Aurora Horstkamp sent an email to Fr. Steve since she had to work during the meeting. She is surprised that Whitman County was allowed to enter Phase 3 for three weeks along with the other counties. As of 2/21-3/6 our case rates were 341 per 100,000 people. (*editor's note, for 2/28-3/13 they are at 550 per 100K.*) If we are not below 200 cases/100K at the end of the three weeks we move back to Phase 2. There is a high likelihood of increased community spread again. The virus variants are likely here already. The UK variant is associated with a 1.6-fold increase risk in death, increased transmissibility, and it remains infective longer. In Florida, 40% of the cases are the UK variant. Washington has at least 99 cases. There are more variants developing. The positivity rate at Pullman Regional Hospital increased to 7% over the past two weeks. It was about 5%.

Daily Mass with people who are fully vaccinated is ok, as long as windows are open, masks worn, social distancing observed, and air purifiers are used. It may be hard to enforce having only vaccinated people attend. It is too soon to say whether we could be indoors by Easter. We may have another surge.

The council discussed options. If vaccinated people can attend, what about low-risk people? Several families are asking to be back in person. We have had up to 20 people present in the church for funerals. Livestreaming of funerals and baptisms will continue even after we open up, for those who cannot attend.

We need to make a plan and expand it intentionally. We could start with fully vaccinated people and expand to those with low risk. By June 6 we should be partly open, with some outdoor Masses. One possibility is to have Mass in the church with distanced seating, and overflow seating in the social hall. We will be able to send the video signal wirelessly by then. And we'll have a large screen TV.

The members decided to meet twice a month to respond to changing conditions and plan for opening. Dr. Horstkamp's main point was "Do not let your guard down."

Holy Week & Easter services: Holy Thursday is at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Uniontown, at 6:30 pm. We will try to livestream. Good Friday services are in the church parking lot; a children's service at 4 pm and a regular service at 7 pm, which will be livestreamed. Holy Saturday will be the fire service through the Exsultet, in the church parking lot at 8 pm, livestreamed. Easter Sunday Masses are at 8:30 and 10 am in the movie theater parking lot.

Upcoming events: Eucharist Miracles Exhibit March 13-14 in the Social Hall and hallways.

Zoom Discussion on Racial Bias and Racial Justice March 18, 6:30, sponsored by Social Justice Ministry.

The St Joseph Shrine and pilgrimage on March 19. St. Thomas More, Uniontown & Colton, and Colfax are participating. Bring a can of food to each church you go to. We will have music at our shrine.

Zoom meeting on Climate Action March 24, sponsored by the Laudato Si Disciples.

The next meeting is Saturday, March 27, at 10 AM on Zoom.

Closing prayer: Glory Be

PLEASE NOTE: As a first step toward reopening, we invite **20 vaccinated people (not counting the ministers) to sign up for 7:15 am daily Mass or Communion service beginning Monday, March 22.** Windows will be open, dress accordingly. You can sign up on our website: www.sacredheartpullman.org or through our email bulletin. The pastoral council will develop further steps.

Also, Fr. Steve will hear confessions outdoors on the side patio Saturdays from 3-4 pm beginning March 27.

Sacred Heart Parish

Faith Formation Board Brief Report to Pastoral Council

Saturday, March 13, 2021

*******HIGHLIGHTS OF DECEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021*******

Ongoing: **RCIA**—small group – working through Zoom with many unique situations.

Sacramental Preparation – materials delivered. 11 participants for this year & 10 from last year. 3 participants from the Spanish-speaking community.

Youth Group Meetings – via Zoom are faith/spiritual discussion followed by games/community building; delivered St. Nicholas bags to families that signed up; mission trip has been cancelled. Steubenville is tentative (*Editor's note, it is cancelled as of 3-18-21*).

Preschool Mail outs - 23 preschool children receiving religious materials with monthly themes.

December **Virtual Christmas Choir & Play** – The Children's Christmas Choir and play was filmed by individual families and pieced together to create a virtual event. The recording was posted to the parish website.

January **Disciples in Dialogue** — Fratelli Tutti (Pope Francis's Social Encyclical). Well attended. Extended one week to continue discussion.

February Candlemas - Feb 2. Lenten Preparation

March **Eucharistic Miracles Display** – display designed and created by the beatified Carlo Acutis showing Eucharistic Miracles from around the world. Display has English & Spanish. We host March 13-14.

*******PLANS*******

Sacrament Mass—with Bishop Daly, Sat. April 17. There will be two masses: 10am and 12pm. Families are letting Theresa know attendance and plans for attending.

*******OBSTACLES/CHALLENGES*******

Family Community/Connection - challenge of keep families engaged with the parish and with faith formation