

Ss. Mary & Mathias Parish Council Minutes

May 27, 2020 via ZOOM – Approved MINUTES

Present: Fr. Troy Richmond, Sister Cheryl Demmer, Annie Almeida, Tommy Fallon, Tim Peters, Deacon Dennis McDonald, Judd Anderson, Linda Depuydt, Cara Fuller, Laura Custus, Robin Edwards, Konrad Wilke, Ben Neitzel and Laurie Ludman

Guest: Father Chris Weber

Absent: Father Hai Dinh, Refugio Cenicerros, Frank Kelly and Jennifer Radar

Opening Prayer: Fr. Troy

Laurie Ludman called the meeting to order. Introductions were made to Father Chris of all the members present.

Review the draft of April's minutes: Laurie Ludman presented April 2020 minutes for review. Motion to approve as written Linda DePudydt, seconded by Cara Fuller. Minutes were approved as written by all present.

Administrative Reports

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Troy discussed the following:

- There is a lot going on with opening up of the Church. We are currently in Phase 1, with opening the church for private prayer for no more than 10 people, social distancing and proper disinfecting and must wear masks. This will begin this Thursday from 4-7 PM and will be Tuesday-Friday from 4-7 PM. There will be ushers to maintain no more than 10 people, to ensure the parishioners are wearing masks, social distancing and sanitizing. Annie is sending out a request for help to usher.
- Phase 2 – Public Masses – this will not occur until there is a 14 day decrease in COVID-19-cases. Bishop Zinkula will make the decision when this will occur and will give a one week notice to parishes. In phase 2 we will be approximately 25 % of the capacity of the church and Gannon hall. Father indicated that this will be approximately 100 people. People will be seated every 3rd pew, there will be no singing and all will wear masks – Disinfecting will occur between each mass
- Phase 3 – will occur when there is another 14 day decrease in Covid-19 cases. There will be no singing, Annie will Cantor the mass parts, there will be no passing the basket, and everyone will enter through the side chapel and can place their offertory in the basket. Will be seated by ushers from the back of the church to the front of the church and dismiss front to back. Father indicated that there will be a 6 foot social distancing expectation for the communion line, there will be no cup ministry.
- For Public Masses there will be a platform to sign up for Mass – Parishioners will need to RSVP by contacting the parish office or can make a reservation on line. Families can sit together as well as extended family as long as RSVP. Anyone 2 years and over are required to wear a mask. Mass will be much shorter between 30 to 35 minutes. There will be X's on the floor for communion line. People will be handed the body of Christ and will step aside and remove their mask just to consume the body of Christ.
- Father is considering adjusting the mass times as there needs to be a 1 hour wait after masses before disinfecting the church between masses. Perhaps masses will be at 7:30 – 8:15 AM 9:15 cleaning Mass 10-10:45 and clean at 11:45 Mass at 12:30. Saturday mass times would stay the same as well as Daily masses. Need to decide who will be cleaning the church between masses – Tommy will reach out to see if youth are able to help with parents' permission.
- There was a lot of discussion about reservations for mass and concerns that people may get turned away if the church is at capacity. We want to make our church as welcoming as possible.
- Calls are being made to Parishioners to check on them. Father indicated that this has gone well and that people are given an opportunity to request prayers. Still need volunteers to call parishioners – we can contact Maria at the office to offer assistance.

- Father Troy has gone to visit his two parishes. He also met the staff. He indicated it is going to be difficult time to leave. He shared that he has spent 8 years in Muscatine including time while he was in seminary, and parochial vicar. He is going to miss everyone tremendously. He is excited to be a lot closer to his mom and his brother and his family.
- Andrew Rauenbuehler will be ordained Deacon on Saturday June 6th at 10 AM in a private ceremony. It will be live streamed.

Father Chris Shared the following:

- He was Youth and Adult Minister from 2003-2011 at St. Mary and St. Mathias
- 2011 he went to seminary and was ordained in 2017 at St. Mathias
- In 2017 he was assigned to be the Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes in Bettendorf and this is his third year
- His focus has been evangelism and discipleship
- Focusing on communication at Lourdes especially with Covid-19
- Shared that it is a blessing that he already knows some people. He is self-aware that he is a different person then he was 10 years ago. He looks forward to getting to know families. He looks forward to invitations from parishioners for dinner in their homes and playing board games.

Ministry, Commission, Committee Activity Report Additions and Call to Action

Finance Council/Business Manager

Reports provided

On line giving is better then what expected. Vanco has increased.

Faith Formation Ministry (Board of Education/Youth Minister)

Report provided

Music Liturgy

Report provided

Hispanic Committee

No report

Church and Family Life Ministry (Hospitality and Relationships)

No report

Liturgy Committee

No report

Social Action Committee

No report

Stewardship Committee

No report

Building and Grounds

Jim Cotrell emailed that the light is still not installed in the outside back wall of the hall. He is working on information on opening up the church and what he needs to do (Meeting for this is Tuesday May 26)

Vision 20/20

No report

School Report

- Ben shared that they are doing reverse parades to say goodbye to students this week. Working on registering kids for school. Continuing to work on plans for school this fall with direction from the State of Iowa Department of Education.

General Discussion

- Konrad was thanked by the Council for doing an extremely wonderful job with the budgets for both the school and the parish
- Tommy was thanked by the Council for doing such a wonderful job with the live streaming and also preparing the video for our graduates – Sister encouraged all to watch this – it is wonderful
- Tim shared that Finance Committee is working with selling parcels of land on Mulberry – Kevin Zeimet and Jim Neppel are working closely on this.
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Old Business (Current Initiatives/Un-finished Business)

- A. Parish Council Selection Committee – Shared thought process of who we were needing on the Council. Discussed how this also ties in with one of the primary retreat goals.
- Sister Cheryl agreed to contact two candidates and Father Troy one as we have three positions as Robin Edwards, Tim Peters and, Refugio Cenicerros terms expire.
 - Isabel Morales accepted a position on the Council and will hold the Vice President position as well as serve on the Church and Family Life Ministry.
 - Jamie Leza accepted a position on the Council and will serve on the Church and Family Life Ministry.
 1. We will no longer have a Hispanic Committee – this work will be done in Parish Council and perhaps workgroups if needed – We want to be welcoming and inclusive
 2. We will ask them to come to the June meeting as guests. Parish Council and Vision 2020 Retreat – next steps
 - Father Troy is working on contacting a candidate and if we do not have a decision from him by the beginning of the week of June 1, 2020 we will go to our next candidate.
 - Leadership next year will be: President: Cara Fuller, Vice President: Isabel Morales and Secretary: Laurie Ludman
- B. Cara led a discussion on the Parish Retreat from February. She reviewed the information and there was a lot of discussion.
- New Mission Statement has been used during announcements – we need to communicate this with the Parish – Father Troy agreed to include this in his Homily this weekend as he feels this will be a good fit with Pentecost.
 - We need to continue to Develop and define the Guiding Values – we will work on this in June
 - Priorities were reviewed which are
 1. Having cultural and intergenerational leadership around the table
 2. Communication and Outreach
 3. Community Building Opportunities
 4. Discipleship
 5. Safety
 - Discussion also regarding communication with who the new Parish Council members are, the Mission Statement and the Opening of the Church
 - It is a good opportunity to focus on the welcoming and inviting with the church reopening – need to talk more about how to make this a positive experience and how we can message this to our Parishioners

- We need to look at the parish roster and to make it as accurate as possible as well as get phone numbers
- Annie shared that there were 215 Eucharistic ministers prior to Covid and now there are 145 as people are asking to be removed due to age or immune compromise. However we will need fewer with only having one entrance open for masses initially

New Business

- Father discussed that there is a core group working at reopening and what is needed for cleaning the church: This group consists of Father Troy, Annie, Deacon Dennis, Maria, Jim Cottrell and Craig Reisenberg. Father indicated that he is going to be doing a YouTube video regarding the church reopening and protocol for communion. Father also will be sending a letter out to Parish
- Discussion on cleaning and disinfecting the parish. Father Chris shared what they are planning to do at Lourdes.
- Parishioners are asked to bring on hand sanitizer and masks but there will be these things available at the church.
- Tommy indicated that if people are questioned the livestreaming cutting out there has been some issues on the church end however many times it is on the receiving end. Tommy suggests that we close out and then refresh the page. Tommy is updating the website with Mass times and the Covid Page is updated

Next meeting Monday June 22, 2020 at 6:30 PM at Gannon Hall if able or otherwise it will occur via Zoom

Laurie Ludman adjourned the meeting

Closing Prayer: Sister Cheryl

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Ludman

May 28, 2020