

SUMMARY OF VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL ADVISORY MEETING ON July 11, 2020

Attendees: Michelle Serafin (Chair), Bob Flaherty (Vice Chair), Father Rozman, Father Sahd, Deacon Paruso, Rose Baker, Tony Devlin, Rudy Geisler, Sean Matthews, Terri Rosenstein, Dave Schmidt, Gary Scicchitano, Dave Sheranko, Ginny Stack and Mary Vukelich. **Absent** were Bill Alward and Jennifer Erskine. Parish volunteer Diane Maclay recorded the minutes for the Council. These were summarized for publication by volunteer Barbara Talarico.

Meeting Management: The meeting was held via the zoom video app and was facilitated by the newly elected Chairperson, Michelle Serafin. Mrs. Serafin called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Opening prayers and Scripture readings were led by Rose Baker and Terri Rosenstein with Council Members then offering their reflections on the prayers.

Action Items in Progress were discussed: 1. In addition to the website, a summary of the Council's minutes for the last three months has been posted to Facebook. 2. An article highlighting PAC's purpose and description was beautifully written by Dave Schmidt and posted in the June bulletin. The description that will appear on the website will have a different closing paragraph. 3. PAC is the selected Ministry of the Month for September. Four different Council Members will present talks from the pulpit at all Masses during the September 19-20 weekend. These talks will be available for on-line viewing. Chairperson, Michelle Serafin will prepare an article for the Bulletin.

Clergy and Senior Leadership Team Updates:

- *Church:* Beginning July 13th, the Church will be open for private prayer from 9 to 12 P.M. All entering must sanitize their pew before departure and must follow all previously established safety guidelines. Confessions have been moved to the Parish Life and Education Center due to privacy concerns. Attendance is beginning to increase for weekend Masses. An outdoor Mass in the gazebo on the Rectory lawn will be offered at 4:15 on Saturdays and 9:45 on Sundays. Consideration is also being given to moving the Friday evening Holy Hour and Daily Masses to the church if enough volunteers to sanitize come forward.
- *School:* Principal Bamberger sent out a letter to SJS parents concerning reopening the school. With the suspended operation of Good Shepherd School, our enrollment is at 480 students which makes SJS the largest school in the diocese. At least 20% of parents surveyed indicated that they were hesitant about their child returning and/or wearing a mask. The current plan is to open school on August 25th with various operating options. A task force is meeting regularly regarding reopening plans and will be prepared to transition between phases as needed throughout the school year based on state and local guidelines. The phases are "In person" instruction, "blended learning" of two groups and "remote" learning for all grades. A Health and Safety plan is being finalized, maintenance crew assignments are being adjusted and contracts for "extended day" school sanitization are in place. There will not be any other activities held in the school building until pandemic restrictions are lifted.
- *Parish Communication Coordinator:* A position description is being prepared to advertise for a full or part time Parish Communications Coordinator. The incumbent will be expected to provide strategic and coordinative communication among all platforms for the Parish. The cost of this position was previously approved by Finance Council.
- *Christmas Fest:* Due to the pandemic, Christmas Fest is cancelled for this year.

- *Respect Life Committee Update:* Father Rozman reached out through Zoom to six relevant Ministry Groups (18 members in all) to discuss ideas for addressing the recent events and current unrest, advertising the many efforts already in place within the parish and finding ways to increase/improve those initiatives. According to our parish database, which is populated by information provided by parishioners during registration, our church is blessed to have many different ethnic groups within our parish family. The next meeting on August 13th will focus on how to utilize the Compendium of Social Doctrine of the Church and FORMED /Ascension programs to address civil unrest and social justice issues. Future agendas will include helping our youth find the words in a difficult conversation and sifting through the rhetoric to approach these issues with solid Catholic teaching.
- *10 Reasons Why Article:* Rudy Geisler offered this article on practical strategies for growing your church and lists reasons why people may be attending church less often. It addresses things like parents choosing sports over church, the rise of online church options, not going to church while on vacation, the cultural disappearance of guilt and other societal shifts. Although originally intended for strategic planning purposes, the Council is looking to it now as a guide for use through the changing times of the pandemic. One of the questions was “how do we ensure that coaches are instilling Catholic values and what are the tenets of Christian centered coaching? A Council member has been tasked with the responsibility to delve into this with Diocesan coaches and bring further information to Council. Regarding social media, members agreed that Saint Joseph’s has an extraordinarily strong online Mass presence which is a blessing during this pandemic or if someone is unable to attend in person. While on-line Masses are a blessing, we are reminded that a core tenant of our faith is the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, so every effort should be made to physically receive the Eucharist when you feel safe to so. For vacationers, Council is looking at apps and websites to encourage parishioners to seek out Mass availability while traveling and Father Sahd will be recording a video of this nature

Strategic Planning: The Council agreed that this is a long-term goal and will continue to work with the established five systems of Worship, Evangelization, Discipleship, Fellowship and Ministry. Given the current situation however, some immediate issues have arisen. Saint Joseph’s Senior Leadership Team will be exploring options to make Mass more child friendly and reinstitute phone calls to the homebound and others as warranted.

Closing: The Council Members recited the Parish Prayer.

Next Meeting Date: August 8, 2020. Vice Chair Bob Flaherty will preside. Mr. Rudy Geisler will serve as Zoom administrator.

Future Items: Next in person meeting TBD – PAC Members need to sign updated By-Laws.

January 16-17, 2021 – Repeat PAC Speakers at all Masses

2023 – Planning to commence for Parish 75th anniversary in 2025.