

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

JANUARY 9, 2021

FINAL

ATTENDEES: Michelle Serafin (Chair) Bob Flaherty (Vice Chair), Father Rozman, Rose Baker, Rudy Geisler, Terri Rosenstein, Gary Scicchitano, Dave Sheranko, Mary Vukelich, Father Sahd, Sean Matthews, Bill Alward, Andrew Kappenhagen, Issy Stence, Deacon Steven Auchey, Ginny Stack, David Schmidt, Jennifer Erskine

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Deacon Paruso, Tony Devlin

PARTIAL ATTENDANCE: Sean Matthews, Bob Flaherty

NON -VOTING MEMBERS: Andrew Kappenhagen and Current Recording Secretary, Barbara Talarico

MEETING MANAGEMENT: The meeting was held via ZOOM technology and was conducted by Michelle Serafin with Mary Vukelich serving as co-host. Minutes were taken and will be distributed by Barbara Talarico.

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYERS/READINGS: Michelle Serafin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The opening reflection and intercessions were selected by Terri Rosenstein as a reminder that we must love and respect each other regardless of the current political climate. Rose Baker read the intercessions and Father Rozman remarked on a book written by Franz Jagerstatter which he said carries a message for all of us. The author was an Austrian conscientious objector in WW2. He was imprisoned and subsequently executed for his refusal to fight for Nazi Germany. (Later beatified by the Catholic Church). His letters to his wife and his reflections from prison showed his moving expressions of faith during the worst time of his life.

ACTION ITEMS FROM DECEMBER MEETING:

- Four action items involving sports/faith themed drill sessions, Confirmation and Baptism sponsors, the establishment of a witness series and providing help to Mother Cabrini Parish were carried over for further discussion in February.
- Mary Vukelich reported that she created a repository of previously expressed ideas for improving the Athletic Association programs when we are ready to act on them.
- Michelle Serafin explained the new staggered membership expiration dates for Council members so that only 1/3 of the members would be lost at one time.

CLERGY/SENIOR LEADERSHIP UPDATES:

- Father Rozman thanked everyone for their support during the Christmas season and offered the following observations:

Commendations:

- Many Mass opportunities
- Decorations were wonderful
- Livestreaming was a way to evangelize
- Music was beautiful and uplifting

- Thanks to the few who stepped up to volunteer.

Recommendations and/or negative comments:

- Make the online worship aid interface more effectively with the livestream
 - There was confusion about the gazebo Masses when the decision was made to change locations due to inclement weather
 - Lack of volunteers to fill all slots comfortably
 - Lots of Dynamic Catholic books are still available and will be made available again through Lent and Easter
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- Father Rozman announced a “Nine Days for Life” Novena for the protection of human life. He stated that the Respect Life Committee will be posting videos each day and Ginny Stack will do ASL interpretation. There will be extended adoration hours on January 22 and January 29. Father Sahd distributed a link to “Time to Sign Up” for PAC members to participate.
 - First Penance will be held beginning January 21, 2021. All CDC protocols will be followed.
 - Father also reported that February 8, 2021 is an important date in the Diocesan Bankruptcy proceedings. Each Parish has been asked to contribute financially to an ad Hoc Committee, whose purpose will be to protect individual parishes’ legal rights once the Diocese bankruptcy proceedings are complete. This payment will serve as insurance against any future claim against an individual Parish. The Finance Committee was briefed on these proceedings and will work with the Parish’s Finance Administrator to make payment once a final amount has been determined.
 - The Deaf Ministry will meet via Zoom on Sunday, January 17, 2021.
 - The Diocese has cancelled the CYO basketball season this year due to the pandemic.
 - Holy Water Bottles will be passed out at all Masses this week.
 - Staff has begun discussing Lent/Holy Week/Easter plans. Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2021.
 - Issy Stence reported that there will be an article published next week in the Catholic Witness concerning the previously awarded Parish Excellence Awards.
 - Continuing the discussion on defining what it means to be “Catholic”, Father Rozman indicated that he is putting together a Committee to discuss this issue via Zoom on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

BRINGING THEM BACK CAMPAIGN:

Many ideas were brainstormed in the hopes of bringing folks back when the dispensation is fully lifted. Staff is either ready with or in the process of working on a welcoming banner, before and after Mass messages, videos from returning families, surveys, and the continuance of at least one livestream Mass. Many other suggestions were made by Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mary Vukelich talked about the newly forming “St. Joseph Prayer Team” under the direction of our Evangelization Coordinator, Suzanne Bruzga. Mary asked for a volunteer to coordinate Council issues for which the team could offer prayer requests. Sean Matthews agreed to serve in this capacity.
- It was reported by a Council Member that “Parish Transformation” and Father Rozman’s efforts as well as those of the Senior Leadership Team have recently received accolades from several Parish members who previously held a dim view of the concept.
- Another Council member resurrected the idea of purchasing and distributing the “love your neighbor” masks talked about in previous meetings. Dave Sheranko offered to research costs associated with this.

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:58 A.M. Father Rozman led the closing prayer .

Next PAC Meeting Date: February 13, 2021

Upcoming Dates:

- Date TBD (next in-person) PAC to sign updated By-Laws.
- January 29, 2021 March for Life Adoration.

Topics to be continued at future meetings:

- Catechism – This is Our Faith reading (Mary Vukelich)
- Serving our parishioners without technology
- West Shore Pastor’s Study: Budgeting for the needs of all. (2.7% catholic school population versus receiving 30% of income)
- Religious Education Program (This topic must be further reviewed in terms of our mission)
- The Five Systems Document
- Faith begins at home. Family activities to pray and ponder. Consider for future.

Note:

Parish Advisory Council Meetings will continue via zoom technology until Covid 19 numbers are on the decrease.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Talarico

“St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us”