

## Catholic Community of Falmouth Pastoral Council

(“Council” or “CCFPC”)

Meeting Notes – June 23, 2020

1. Meeting Opening - A meeting of the Council was held on June 23, 2020 via Zoom conferencing. Msgr. Avila opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Attendance - Council members present included: Msgr. Stephen Avila, Co-Chairs Steve Johnson and Jim Quinn, Frank Geishecker, Jane Hopewood, Mary Ellen Powers, Carolyn Malchodi, Mary Lou Palumbo, Susan Cronin, Ellen Driscoll, Paul DeMeo, Bill LaRuffa, and Bill Malchodi. Deacons present who serve on the Council in an ex officio capacity included Deacons Pat Mahoney, Peter Guresh, William Hays, and Paul Harney. Members absent included Mat Baldasaro and Paul April. Deacons absent included Deacon John Simonis.
3. Secretary/Minutes - The meeting began at 6:30 PM. Bill Malchodi served as Secretary. Minutes from the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.
4. Church and Chapel Services - (all churches and chapels will be abbreviated with first initials). Msgr. Avila recognized Collaborative staff for their hard work in reopening our churches for public services. Msgr. Avila solicited and received feedback on parishioner reaction to the opening of the three churches. He noted that many parishioners remain hesitant to return to Mass due to the continuing Corona virus threat but also that Mass attendance numbers have increased each week, with SA logging over 100 attendees at three weekend Masses and SES logging over 100 attendees at two weekend Masses. It remains to be seen whether attendance will increase significantly during the traditionally busy months of July and August. Social distancing guidelines have reduced church capacity significantly, particularly at ST and SJ. ST has capacity for 65-80 people depending on the number of couples or families attending, while SJ has capacity for only 30-35 people. Those attending Mass at ST can expand onto the grass as has traditionally occurred during the summer, but SJ does not have that expansion capability. Capacity limits, previous summer attendance levels and the availability of retired priests and ushers at the chapels were discussed at length. Msgr. Avila’s current plan is to hold a Saturday evening and Sunday morning Mass at ST but none at SJ. He also plans to open the chapels for public prayer during the week. Opening the chapels requires a cleaning crew.
5. Census – Msgr. Avila discussed the outdated parishioner records which exist at all three churches. Current parishioner census data is necessary for intelligent decision making and this led Msgr. to contract with a company which has a national presence to conduct a census of all Collaborative parishioners. We have received over 300 responses to the first mailing, and follow-up mailings will be made during the coming months. Msgr. believes that an updated database will enable better decision making on the scheduling of services and the allocation of resources as well as better electronic communication. This need became especially evident during this COVID pandemic.

6. Finances – Financially, the Collaborative is working. However, the closing of public church services during the past three months has negatively impacted collections revenue. Monthly revenue at each of the three churches dropped by several thousand dollars during the past three months, although SA reflected a surprising increase in May donations. From a positive perspective, some parishioners donated their federal stimulus checks and the number of parishioners participating in the We Share on-line giving program has increased to 270 at SA, 50 at SES and 44 at SP. SA and SES are current with their bills, but SP has been unable to pay its share of Collaborative and Diocesan expenses for the past three months. Msgr. Avila plans to meet with the three Finance Committees jointly in August to review our finances in greater detail.
7. Religious Education – Jonathan Gallo has been meeting with Collaborative teachers and other DRE's to determine how best to conduct religious education in the Fall. Msgr. anticipates that confirmation will take place: this end of July; middle of August, or wait a year. The Bishop will preside. Confirmation would not be at regular mass time but scheduled during the afternoon. It is anticipated that some confirmation candidates will postpone their confirmation until next year. First Communion plans are TBD.
8. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Malchodi