

St. Joseph Guardian of the Holy Family Parish Council

Notes – Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Meeting Opening - A meeting of the Council was held on August 17, 2021, in Saint Anthony's church basement and via Zoom (all churches and chapels are abbreviated with first initials). Msgr. Avila opened the meeting with a prayer.

Attendance - Council members present or on-line included: Msgr. Stephen Avila (aka Fr. Steve), Co-Chair Jim Quinn, Frank Geishecker, Mat Baldasaro, Jane Hopewood, Carolyn Malchodi, Bill Malchodi (via Zoom), Paul April, Mary Lou Palumbo, Susan Cronin, Ellen Driscoll, Paul DeMeo, Deacon William Hays, Deacon Peter Guresh, Deacon Pat Mahoney, and Paul DeMeo. Members absent included Mary Ellen Powers and Deacon Paul Harney.

Secretary/Minutes - The meeting began at 6:04 PM. Jane Hopewood served as Secretary. Minutes from the May 18, 2021, meeting were approved as submitted.

Announcement: Fr. Steve announced that Co-Chair Steve Johnson has stepped down from his participation on the Council. Steve had moved to Sagamore Beach and has decided the time has come to withdraw from his leadership position.

Old Business:

a) A New Parish was established on 1 July 2021: St. Joseph Guardian of the Holy Family. It appears to have gone well. Positive comments have come in from parishioners from all the churches. There were some initial concerns regarding church identity, but the parish has moved beyond it. The Men's Club is an excellent example that collaboration is working, with no issues concerning inclusivity across the parish

Only one complaint was received whereby the individual appeared to have missed every aspect of the "information outreach" regarding unification.

The new signage for each of the churches & chapels within the parish is working well. Permanent updated signs will be forthcoming. The Falmouthcatholic.org website is still in use as our working parish website and continues to present the smooth transition and unity of our Falmouth Catholic Community. We will maintain the same domain name for the time being.

b) New Parish Council: A newly formed Parish has need of a new Parish Council.

i. Membership: One member needs to be replaced (Steve Johnson). For now, Fr. Steve wants to keep the balance and legacy among the three churches (SA, SES, SP). Members were invited to forward suggested names of people to assist the Council to Father and Jim. Regarding size of Council, the original Diocesan consultants suggested 20 people. Father thinks that may be unwieldy. A better

working number appears to be between 12-15 members. It was suggested that we seek a representative from the Brazilian community.

ii. Maximum Term is 3 years, but the plan is to stagger the present membership for continuity. Jim asked if there were any volunteers for specific lengths of time. Ellen Driscoll and Jim Quinn volunteered for one-year commitments; Deacon Bill Hays volunteered for a two-year commitment.

iii. Requirement for a Parish Finance Council – similar membership from the three legacy churches. It's suggested to keep the past members for the new parish. Father wants to have a financial “close-out” for each legacy church. Father does need to call a finance meeting.

(1) Danny Cunha has QuickBooks working for the Parish financials so this information should not be difficult to generate. At present, savings/money at the Chancery is still separated. It was suggested that all “separate” accounts end within 3-5 years. Bill Malchodi suggested a semi-annual financial presentation to the Parish Council; the suggestion was met with Council agreement.

c) CCF Property Status (Frank Geishecker):

Property Report: Frank will have a complete written report for the Council prior to the next meeting. Frank suggested there should be an independent operating statement for each parish property - a type of profit & loss (P&L) of each property to allow better management decisions in the future. There are different requirements for each of the properties. One example is that SES has HVAC problems. The building is 45 years old; some major work will be necessary.

Cell Phone Tower Rental Status: St. Joseph Cemetery and/or the back section of SES are two cell tower suggestions. The company has been contacted; a proposal is being generated. The next steps will involve the town and abutting neighbors.

d) Evangelization:

i. Julia Goldschmidt, a recent graduate of the University of Notre Dame Echo Graduate Service Program with a MA in Theology, arrived today. She will be with us for two years. Our Parish provides for her internship and the Diocese provides her housing in Fall River. They are also providing her a stipend/gift card to offset her daily commute to Falmouth. Jonathan Galo will be her mentor.

ii. Brazilian Community Lay Leadership: Suggested representatives for this position were discussed.

New Business

- a) St. Joseph Chapel Masses: A letter was sent to Fr. Steve and the Bishop inquiring about the lack of any weekend masses at St. Joseph's in Woods Hole. Discussion by council members recognized the difficulty of scheduling a Mass at St. Joseph's Chapel given available times and resources and did not recommend an additional mass at the St. Joseph's Chapel. The Parish will continue to provide the weekly Adoration and mass on Wednesdays until Columbus Day.

- b) Faith Formation Update: There are few issues with "Meet You at the Altar" program. However, there will no longer be classes at SP and SES. All classes will be on Sunday mornings to help connect to Sunday Mass. In addition to weekly journals, classes meet in-person once-a-month for non-sacramental years (grades 1, 3-8). The students in sacramental years will meet twice a month. This year, in addition to journals, there will also be a Parent Question. Jonathan and Julia will do general teachings and then hold class.

- c) Discussion of Mass Eulogies issues was tabled for the next meeting of the Council.

- d) Fr. Ryan came by the Parish Council to thank the Council for their work and support as he departs for his new assignment as Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Acushnet. Fr. Steve thanked Fr. Ryan for the support and brotherhood he provided during his two years at the parish.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Hopewood, Acting