

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021

7:00 pm

ZOOM

**Attendees:** Lauren Bakke, Roberta Bakke, Mary Cimperman, John Comer, Bob Coulombe, Leo Frank, Joel Loecken, Mary Ann Neuman, Bebet Quitangor, Dean Rademacher, Father Terry, Paul Rebehn, Jackie Schluter Johnson, David Luiken, Aaron VanDanaker

**Not in attendance:** Paul Sariego

Called to order at 7:04

1. Approval of January 19 minutes Mary Ann moved, Leo second. Motion passes
2. Introduction of Aaron VanDanaker
  - a. Aaron joins us from St. Stephens Catholic Community and he also has work experience at other churches, at schools and at St. John's University. He was trained at St. Thomas.
  - b. Aaron reported that he is looking forward to listening and learning from parishioners, members of the music ministry and the staff. Mary Bur left a well-oiled machine and that provides a strong runway for us to move forward. Aaron plans to reconnect with the choir beginning in March. Zoom meetings to start to get the choir members in touch with each other and find some type of activity to help celebrate Easter.
3. David Luiken sharing of wisdom around Equity and inclusion
  - a. David spoke on the subject of Inclusiveness. Christian Social Teaching requires us to take steps to promote racial justice and inclusion. Our current social systems disadvantage Blacks, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and we are called to end this discrimination. Pope Francis has repeatedly called us to this mission. David called on the parish to make inclusiveness a significant part of our mission.
  - b. Lauren and the Young Adult Group have been addressing this issue. They have identified an exhibit by [We Are All Criminals](#) they would like to sponsor. We Are All Criminals is a non-profit organization dedicated to challenging society's perceptions of what it means to be "criminal." Through shared stories of those who committed or were accused of committing crimes, those who got away with them, and those who have been directly affected by the criminal justice system, we seek to erase the barriers that separate us.
    - i. SEEN is a prison portrait and poetry project created by We are All Criminals. But more importantly, it's a Minnesota portrait and poetry project. Through photography, video, and written word, we share the poignant brilliance of poets and prose writers in Minnesota state prisons, and work together to make the invisible visible, the unheard heard, and the unseen seen. Mass incarceration is dependent upon the ignoring and erasure of the human beings we cage. In collaboration with the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop (MPWW) and the thoughtful, intelligent, humble, and deeply gifted writers on the inside, WAAC challenges and disrupts mass incarceration by clearing the pathways for people behind bars to have their voices heard, faces seen, and humanity recognized—and for people on the outside to reckon with the inhumanity of our country's mass incarceration mass disaster.
  - c. Other exhibits that have been suggested include [Transfer of Memory](#) and the [Forgiveness Project](#). Each of these would address an aspect of discrimination.

4. Dean report- Dean (15 minutes)

- a. There is activity beginning with Synod. Dean has a team working on organizing St. Joseph's involvement in the Synod. Staff and George Wilson are on the team.
- b. 10am Masses on Sunday's are averaging 125 people. Attendance has definitely been effected by the cold weekends we have had.
- c. Plan is to add Saturday 4:30 pm Parking Lot Mass starting March 6<sup>th</sup>. We will need to have a weather indicator to determine when to move inside. Aaron to record the music ahead of time based on temperature and musicians preference.
- d. Aaron has asked ministers to update their Ministry Scheduler availability and added reminders to be sent out to all ministers.
- e. Aaron will begin a zoom meeting with choir on Wednesday nights starting in March. This is both for Music as well as opportunity for people to connect.
- f. There is a plan to work with JB Eckert to record the Stations of the Cross. Aaron is collaborating with JB.
- g. Larry and Brennan had a successful ZOOM confirmation retreat. Confirmation will be at St. Joseph's on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>. The confirmation Mass will be streamed.
- h. Pat Goetz continues to assist with Pastoral Care. The current trend is to have a small ceremony at the funeral home or at the cemetery. Pat continues to be the lead Sacristan for all Masses. Some families are also planning delayed funerals for the summer. Pat will be recording a "Fireside Chat" with Father Malek on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The topic is complicated Grief.
- i. Father Malek will also be recording a second "Fireside Chat" on racism on March 10<sup>th</sup>. This happens to be the same week the Derik Chauvin trial begins. Hope is to collaborate with young adults and high school youth to get some questions for this presentation.
- j. We have about 100 people doing RENEW this year. Cole Epping continues to work with parishioners based on their preference for virtual or at home options.
- k. Cole and Dean are working on a partnership with the Benedictine Center at the St. Paul Monastery to provide Lectio Divina offering. The hope is to offer this following Easter.
- l. Jason Wittak is working with Sonnysen to provide kid pack for families utilizing non-perishable foods. Beginning February 24<sup>th</sup> we will become a "Fare for All" monthly drive thru site. Fare For All is community-supported and open to everyone. The more people who participate, the more savings passed on to customers. Fare For All buys fruits, vegetables, and frozen meat in bulk to save you up to 40% off grocery store prices. We select the best food from our shipments, pre-packaging it to give you the greatest deals! We are also looking at supporting a Habitat Home in New Hope this summer.
- m. Communication continues to find new ways to connect to people. We are finding that when we post facebook SJCC super hero's on Wednesdays we can get up to 500 views.
- n. Lynn Kotecki will be the key contact as we promote the sales of niches in the new Columbarium. We have had a few interested people, but will begin a strong promotion including in the end of March Parish Wide Mailing as well as across communication platforms.
- o. Total Giving YTD is coming in at -8.5% compared to actual giving last year. We continue to have some people moving to Donor Advised Funds as well as Required Minimum Distribution.
- p. We have a request for a Quinceanera for August, this is exciting but this will be determined by current COVID protocols.
- q. Catholic Mutual who is our insurance company informed us that Catholic Churches no longer have "Communicable Disease" coverage I.E. COVID effective January 1st 2021. One church in the Twin Cities was reported as not following their COVID protocols and

OSHA came in both for the COVID report as well as a complete review of the parish. The church will be paying a fine.

- r. Currently we are investigating re-lamping remainder of Parish Center to LED lighting. There are new rebates available and given the low usage of the facility this would be a good time to move forward with this project. We have moved to LED at the Little Church and parts of the Parish Center such as Sanctuary, Gathering Space and High Hall. The remainder of the building is still using inefficient fluorescent. Would include motion sensor light installation in key areas as well. Would like to promote energy efficiency efforts with “Care for Creation” team being led at St. Joseph’s by Reba Luiken. We also need to replace some water faucets and looking to a bottle filling model that encourages reusable bottles.
5. We want to find ways of re-engaging parishioners to “Church” as COVID declines. The conversation has a focus on families with children. Jackie has a number of ideas for getting families back into the parish. She would be happy to be a part of a small group discussion to come up with and vet ideas.
6. Lay Advisory—Archdiocese group to get lay members involved in the church. We are in Deanery 9. Priestly vocation, seminaries, catholic schools, racial justice are the topics that have been discussed over the last three meetings. St. Peter Clayber parish is leading the charge for racial justice.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56.

Next Council meeting is March 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM.