

10/18/20 Pastoral Council Minutes *Summary* –

The Chair, Jim Benson led the group in an opening prayer and read a relevant G.K.Chesterton quote to start the meeting.

From Bob Frohman, guest, Chair of the Building and Facilities Commission, update

- The NCDOT Brawley School Rd widening project has been postponed until at least 2022.
- One of the HVAC units for the Day Chapel has been replaced.
- The Church's HVAC system has required numerous costly repairs, despite running to specifications
- The Peace and Justice Committee has requested consideration of a solar panel array to be more environmentally friendly. The Commission has also requested a walking nature trail on our property. There is currently one behind the rectory, but it has not been maintained in a long time and needs some work.
- New stair treads in the PLC are needed.
- Fifteen Zoom accounts have been subscribed to by the church; contact Christine Leal for group access.
- Video-conferencing capability is being explored.

Pastor's update:

- Hopes are for a Parochial Vicar by Thanksgiving.
- The campus site plan remains on hold.
- Sunfish properties are currently rented, the income of which pays approximately 50% of our mortgage on those properties.
- Two Confirmation Masses, postponed since the spring, were held
- The Annual Thanksgiving Community dinner has been put "on hold" this year.
- Mass attendance has been increasing, running 25-28% c/w pre-COVID numbers, recently had 900+ attendees.
- The use of heat lamps for sitting outdoors was discussed and felt to not be feasible

Financial Council updates:

- The Annual Report was sent out the previous week.
- Offertory, although not at pre-COVID levels, is still covering the current budget
- There is though a shortfall in our reserve funds. The current balance is \$110K, but we need at least \$350K for delayed maintenance and upgrades.
- Our two biggest annual Diocesan assessments are the DSA and the Priest's Retirement Fund, the latter of which we are still below our goal.

Stewardship Committee update.

- The Committee has created a handbook for its members.
- The Committee is looking into launching a Stewardship initiative that would educate parishioners about the importance of stewardship in terms of sharing their time, talent, and treasure with the Church.
- Parish Council members who have not taken *Living Your Strengths* were encouraged to enroll in a special session for them on Nov. 7 and 14.

Adult Education Update:

- The Ignatian team plans a five-week introduction to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.
- The Fertility prayer support group has invited five local parishes to join; St. Mark has responded.
- There is some interest in a singles social group and a divorce care group. These will be looked into as possibilities for the future.

Evangelization/Communication Commission update:

- The FORMED platform was discussed. It has 4000 resources including bible studies, videos, books, etc.
- There will be a FORMED orientation on Oct. 21 at 3:30 that office staff, ECC, and Adult Ed members have been invited to attend.
- The committee is brainstorming ways to use the platform to get parish members more engaged with their faith and with each other. One example, having a parish-wide viewing of the film *The Secret Of St. Therese*.
- All ministry leaders are to be encouraged to be trained in FORMED so that they can be knowledgeable and use it in their ministry.

Parish Manager update:

- There have been a few candidates who have applied for the Chair of the Latino Ministry.
- 2300 families received the financial update, either by email or a hard copy.

From the Chair:

- The council still seeks a member as liaison to the Latino Ministry.
- The updated Bylaws for the Pastoral Council are close to being finished and will be submitted to Father Mark for approval.
- A Pastoral Council member handbook is also in the works.

New business:

- The procedure for requesting a new ministry was reviewed..
- The Council discussed posting the minutes of its meetings on the parish website.
- Next meeting will be on Nov. 15 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Father Mark led a closing prayer.