

Parish council meeting September 17, 2020 6:30pm – 8:00pm

PRESENT: Fr Ross, Tim Doval, Jim Laferriere, Elizabeth Crail, Ann Hagestead, Anna Mouton, Tom Vorderbruggen , Patty Walter, Carolyn Dukes

EXCUSED: Jim Villano, Roberta Carnahan, Barb Fennessy, Lourdes Bernal, Gina Torres, Ricardo Rodriguez, Molly Murphy

GUESTS: Molly Eckert

Opening prayer

Distributed Parish Council minutes from the August 20th meeting, reviewed & corrected.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Web Presence: Reviewed some additional changes and additions to our new Web site. Pastoral Council link has been updated with council pictures and meeting minutes. The new web site may be accessed at the URL: sacredheartak.org.

Mass Times: The 8:00am Mass has increased attendance. Fr Kaspar had been temporarily assisting with Masses at St Raphael. He has returned to India and he will be greatly missed. Fr Dillio, who is the army chaplain from Ft Wainwright, is assisting with Masses at Sacred Heart, giving Fr Ross the ability to cover two parishes. Fr Dillio is helping with weekday Masses, Tuesday thru Thursday, allowing Fr Ross to cover St Raphael Tuesday thru Thursday. And Fr Dillio is also assisting with the weekend Saturday 4:30pm and Sunday 11:00am Mass. He should be available to assist through Mid-December.

Religious Education: Class will begin Sunday, September 20th. At this time there are about 40 students registered, which is about half from last year. Considering that the schools in general have lower attendance due to COVID restrictions and required social distancing, the registrations are understandable. Adjustments to Religious Education classes have been made, allowing take home packets and on-line access to material using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies. Sacramental preparation will continue to be held with Sacred Heart and Immaculate Conception providing combined sessions

Security: The security camera system is completely installed. There are 16 cameras that give greater visibility. The cameras are activated by motion.

Safety and Security Plan: Elizabeth Crail presented the completed version of the Emergency Operations Plan, EOP, for Sacred Heart. The Safety and Security Committee have been working towards this completed project for several months and have compiled a wealth of organized material. Council members were given copies for review of the EOP and samples of the more concise flip charts that will be available in each room of the cathedral. One suggestion brought forward, was to create an electronic version of the EOP, allowing council, staff and approved personal electronic access. The EOP contains an Emergency contact list, notification procedures, floor plans, lock up procedures, evacuation, shelter in place, and lockdown information. Clear and concise information regarding specific emergencies, disruptive or violent intruders, and information regarding the Safety volunteer team. The purpose of the emergency plan is to provide all parish leaders, staff and volunteers with crisis procedures to establish a safe and orderly response for a wide range of emergency events that may occur in or near the church. The AED, automated external defibrillator, is located in the Narthex/lobby. Suggestion brought forward, to add a page to the EOP regarding the manually lowering of the LIFT in the event of a possible power outage. Another concern discussed, was how to assist our elderly parishioners in the event of an emergency evacuation. Thank you to the Safety and Security Committee for their time and dedication in creating the EOP.

Closing comments from council members:

- Key access to one of our new sacristans for building access. Currently, no new keys are being issued due to two recent sets of lost keys. Master Key assignments need to be reviewed, along with the possibility of re-keying the building. The north entrance door will soon be set up for electronic keycard entry.
- On behalf of the Food Bank, Patty Walter expressed thanks to everyone for their participation in the August canned food drive. The churches provided over 15 thousand pounds of canned foods, and there was great participation from the Catholic churches of Fairbanks.
- Inquiring as to when the Altar Servers would be allowed to assist again at the Masses. This is a possibility for consideration, to allow one Altar Server per Mass, unless they are from the same family where two could serve. Fr Ross has recently reviewed scheduling software, using a kiosk, that would allow sign up of ministries. Another suggestion brought forward, would be to allow Acolytes to assist, in the absence of a Deacon.
- Would it be possible to have instrumental music at each Mass since singing is currently not allowed due to COVID health concerns? There are currently two Masses where volunteers have stepped forward to provide instrumental music. A comment shared is where are the younger volunteers, as one of our faithful weekly musicians is in her 70's. (The younger volunteers are the driving force behind the Hispanic Mass).
- Request to sing at the Masses. Fr Ross is following the guidance of the Bishop, where decision is at the pastors' discretion. For the health safety of our parishioners, the singing is suspended at this time.
- Will there be any talk from the pulpit regarding Catholic teachings and the upcoming election? (This question prompted the homily Vote Wisely, posted to the web on 9-22).
- Rosary Congress will be held at Cathedral October 2-4.
- Hospitality looking for Fundraising opportunities such as silent auctions. It was brought forward that there are hospitality funds that could now be spent.

Closing Prayer

Next meeting scheduled for October 15, 2020, Thursday, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

PPC meeting minutes for September 17, 2020, respectfully submitted by Parish Council Recorder

Appendix: 09-22-20 Vote Wisely