

Parish council meeting October 15, 2020 6:30pm – 8:00pm

PRESENT: Fr Ross, Tim Doval, Jim Laferriere, Elizabeth Crail, Ann Hagestead, Anna Mouton, Molly Murphy

EXCUSED: Jim Villano, Roberta Carnahan, Barb Fennessy, Lourdes Bernal, Gina Torres, Ricardo Rodriguez, Patty Walter, Carolyn Dukes, Tom Vorderbruggen

Opening prayer

Parish Council minutes from the September 17th meeting, on-line @ sacredheartak.org

Sacred Heart Cathedral Web Presence: Our web presence is continuing to be developed. Three publications were added to the web page regarding Catholic voting guidelines; a written daily homily from Fr. Ross titled "Voting Wisely", a letter from Bishop Chad addressing Pro-life and voting, and a six page voting guide addressing Catholic principles on social teaching from the Michigan Catholic Conference. There are forms that can now be accessed on the web page instead of having to come and get forms in person. Parishioners are now able to access information and forms to help with funeral readings, marriage preparation, and other sacraments. The web site may be accessed at the URL: sacredheartak.org.

COVID19 updates Affecting Diocese and Cathedral: Council discussed operating within the current Covid19 environment and adjusting to the necessary changes as Covid19 numbers decrease and increase. Bishop Chad had originally requested no singing during the Mass or other church events as singing gives more opportunity to pass on virus. Bishop has since left the decision regarding singing to the Pastors of each church. Several council members miss the singing and hopes that singing would be allowed again soon, however, council understand the reasons for these safety measures. Suggestions included allowing instrumental until singing is allowed again, as the music enhances the celebration of the Mass. There has been issues where some parishioners do not wear their masks or wear their masks incorrectly which would be more concerning if singing was occurring. The cathedral is using adequate spacing, and the caution tape blocking pews, allowing separation has been well received. There is signage regarding safety suggestions and guidelines, hand sanitizer and donated masks available in the vestibule, along with spray sanitizing the pews after each Mass.

Council discussed allowing altar servers at the Masses, either one server, or possibly two if from same family. Discussed adding new protocols for the servers regarding hand sanitizing and minimal contact. There is concern that our altar servers may lose interest if not allowed to serve in this ministry and what can we do to address this issue. Suggestions included allowing acolytes to serve for now, and, also to continue to limit those in the sanctuary for the safety of the priest and others.

Closing comments from council members:

- Bishop expressed concern that several villages have not had Mass for several months. Bishop is traveling to a few of the villages and meeting with some of the elders.
- Security suggestion to have a presentation from the FBI that is similar to the ALICE training that occurred last year specific for our parish regarding safety concerns.

Closing Prayer

Next meeting scheduled for November 19, 2020, Thursday, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

PPC meeting minutes for October 15, 2020, respectfully submitted by Parish Council Recorder