

Minutes
Christ Our Redeemer (COR) Pastoral Council (PC) Meeting
Sunday, February 7, 2021

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Vanderburg and began at 12:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All attendees observed proper distancing as prescribed by the Covid-19 precautionary measures. Father Bob opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present

Father Bob Johnson
Bob Gualtieri
Ross Maple
Sharon Mikus
Rich Mountain
Ken Rodriguez
Stephen Scheidt
AO Seeman
Mary Jane Sullivan
Barbara Swanson
Jim Thennes
Kathy Vanderburg
Patti Wolfrom

Absent

Kellie Parod

Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting held on Sunday January 3, 2021

Ken Rodriguez made the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Barbara Swanson. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Opening Remarks

Father Bob spoke on the upward trend of Mass attendance and Bob Gualtieri reported that weekend attendance was 374 for all masses.

There will be two funerals in the coming week; Brian Branagan's funeral will be held Wednesday 10 February at 11:00 a.m. and Betty Ryan's funeral will be Saturday 13 February also at 11:00 a.m. In addition, there will be a baptism on 13 February at 1:00 p.m.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 17 February. Father will celebrate three Masses, two at COR and one at America House. COR Masses will be held at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and the Mass at American House will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Ash Wednesday Covid-19 protocols have been issued from the Diocese. Ashes will be sprinkled on the heads of the recipients. No physical contact will be made.

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Father also reported that on Ash Wednesday a change to the missal will go into effect to align with the original Latin liturgy more closely. The concluding phrase of the Collect will now be as follows: "Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever." The word 'one' has been removed.

There will be Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings throughout Lent, but there will not be any Lenten soup dinners. Father Bob and Deacon Miguel will share the Stations duties with the Knights of Columbus hosting two evenings. The Knights are willing to share the duties with the CCW if they would like to host one evening, as well.

Lent, of course, is a time to pray, fast, and give alms.

Father met with half of the first communicants for their first reconciliation and will meet with the second group on 20 February. There are about 20 children preparing for their first communion.

Bishop Wack will be speaking to the CCW at their meeting on 5 March via invitation from Pat Kramer. Patti Wolfrom reported that the COR CCW has extended an invitation to the CCW from the Holy Name and Christ the King parishes. The hope is to also have the Bishop say Mass.

Palm Sunday is 28 March, and the Chrism Mass will be held on 30 March. Father asks that we remain flexible as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 protocols.

Regarding the pavilion, the next step is to have electricity installed and then the cement slab will be poured. Father also mentioned that the altar that Eric Parod has created is magnificent.

Father asks that we continue to endeavor to evangelize and bring people either to or back to the Church.

Unfinished Business

CSA:

Ross Maple reported that the Catholic Sharing Appeal meeting with Bishop Wack held on 20 January was less about money and much more about prayer and evangelization. The CSA Campaign letters have gone out and enclosed with the letter are prayer request cards to send back to Bishop Wack who will call the individuals to let them know that he is praying for them.

There will be a video from the Bishop played in Mass the weekend of 13-14 February.

The CSA assessment for this year has been reduced and, as always, any overage will be returned to the parish. Previous assessment overages were used to fund the pavilion.

Capital Campaign:

Ken Rodriguez reported that he is currently working on a proposal to reinvigorate the Engage, Reengage, and Commit capital campaign which will include a letter to the parish to inform on progress and to engage families that have come to COR since the initial appeal.

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Ken suggests that there may be cause to increase the goal to mitigate the inevitable increase in materials costs over the one-year extension of the campaign.

To help in the planning and management of the increased time frame and the unique circumstances precipitated by the pandemic and slowed receipt of pledged monies, Ken will be contacting John Kennedy at the Diocese. Consideration must be made regarding timing to avoid a reengagement of the capital campaign in tandem with the initial CSA pledge period.

All members agree that a reinvigoration campaign is necessary and that it must be carefully crafted and contain elements of the first-round while remaining sensitive to the current circumstances. A video status report that can be shown at weekend masses and posted on the website as well as imbedded in an email was suggested.

Bob Gualtieri asked if there is available data of people who pledged but have since moved and suggested that they be contacted to see if they feel they can honor their pledges. Bob also stated that it is important to remind parishioners that there will be a time when life gets back to normal and that the new building is a big part of that.

Ross Maple stated that Gretchen Erikson has contacted those who made pledges but have yet to contribute. He also thanked Bob Gualtieri for his suggested edits to the letter that will be going out to parishioners as an initial reengage effort for the campaign.

There was much discussion surrounding the appropriate time to send the letter and Father Bob reminded the Council that the letter will have to be approved by the Parish Leadership Committee and the Finance Committee. Prudence in timing is a major concern especially due to the challenges some families may be currently facing.

Bob Gualtieri suggested that a collection box dedicated to the capital campaign be placed in the narthex. Perhaps one with a picture of the building plans as a visual reminder to parishioners to support the effort.

Rich Mountain reiterated that John Kennedy should be contacted for guidance on re-starting the campaign.

Patti Wolfrom suggested that there may be some confusion on the part of the parishioners between the pavilion which is visibly going up and the new RE building that is to be funded by the capital campaign. She mentioned that it does not seem very clear how the pavilion came to be and how the project was funded. Sharon Mikus noted that she has heard the comment made equating the pavilion to the 'new building' and agreed with Patti that there may be some confusion. Steve Scheidt, once again, noted that the monies for the pavilion came from CSA overage and Patti emphasized that she knew this as a member of the Parish Council but that there may be confusion among parishioners.

Bob Gualtieri offered to write a notice to be placed in the bulletin to clarify how the pavilion was funded.

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Father Bob mentioned that the current pandemic highlighted the need for an outdoor facility that can be used for Mass as well as other activities such as youth group and religious education. He also discussed the lengthy process involved to bring the pavilion to fruition.

Steve Scheidt added that the Knights of Columbus have provided much of the labor for the pavilion which, of course, has mitigated the cost. He stated that the finance committee will put out a statement to clarify that the pavilion is funded separately from the Engage, Reengage, and Commit funds.

Kathy Vanderburg asked for clarification about the collection amount listed in the bulletin for the campaign. AO Seeman explained that the amounts listed are what were collected the previous week. The listed amount includes pledged monies received as well as monies collected independently of pledges.

Kathy Vanderburg made a motion that Ken Rodriguez represent the Parish Council regarding the capital campaign. Bob Gualtieri seconded the motion.

New Business

Ministry Liaison Reports:

Mary Jane Sullivan reported on the Single, Divorced, and Widowed Group. She stated that Ann Peterson reports that the group has had luncheons since August and that the groups have been getting gradually larger. Ann also noted that the group is not in need of anything at this time.

Barbara Swanson's report on the Welcome Committee and the Donut Ministry are as follows:

Welcome Committee:

The Welcome Committee was restarted after suspension in March 2020 due to COVID. Twelve of the 19 new families called were officially welcomed at mass in January. In February, the four families who could not participate in January but wanted to be included were called in addition to the five new families/persons who registered during the month of January. At the February 6th and 7th masses five (5) families/persons will receive a welcome basket. Two of those families have opted to receive their baskets after mass as they do not want the spotlight attention.

The bread is being purchased from Public's bakery. The wine and baskets are already on hand in COR. This ministry is back to full functioning. They have an acting Ministry Lead, Barbara Swanson, but need a permanent leader.

Donut Ministry:

This committee was paused due to COVID and has not restarted. Once social distancing has been lifted Barbara Swanson will work with the COR office to get the ministry restarted. There is still a need for a Ministry Leader.

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Barbara mentioned that the welcome baskets were short the pamphlet that listed the parish ministries and volunteer opportunities. AO Seeman informed the Council that when a person or family registers with the parish, they receive an email that includes the ministry list. It was agreed upon that a printed list for the baskets would, therefore, not be necessary.

Kathy Vanderburg announced that Bob Gualtieri has volunteered to take on the ministry reports for Ushers/Greeters, Arts and Environments, and Music.

Administration Report:

AO Seeman announced that the parish will be making phone calls to parishioners to inform them of the schedule for Easter Masses and volunteers are in great demand. The phone calls that were made before Christmas were very well received but took a lot of time away from the daily duties of the staff. Phone calls must be made from a parish phone and the call list must be returned to the office staff when the volunteer is finished with calls for the day. A volunteer sign-up sheet to make calls was passed amongst the Council members.

Finance Committee News:

Steve Scheidt offered his appreciation for the comments and concerns of the Parish Council regarding the capital campaign and the general finances of the Parish. Going forward, he will be keeping the specific numbers within the domain of the Finance Committee but will continue to provide an overview for the Parish Council.

Steve submitted that lessons and issues that have emerged throughout the pandemic will dictate how and when steps are taken going forward. He agrees that the dedicated donation box for the capital campaign placed in the narthex is a good idea.

The first quarter of 2020 showed a receipt of roughly 57% of the budgeted estimate for the capital campaign and the second quarter saw a 33% increase above the previous. Looking at 15 months into the calculated 36-month initial campaign duration, monies taken in are at a 12% shortfall. This calculation does incorporate monies taken in over and above pledges received.

Steve proposed that a concentrated effort at reengaging the parish with the capital campaign begin in October. He also suggested that in October of 2022 when the initial 36-month pledge period concludes, an effort be made to invite additional pledges for the one-year extended time frame.

The offeratory has seen a 35% increase in this past quarter which reflects the upward trend of Mass attendance. January figures are not yet in.

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Logistics of increased mass attendance with Covid-19 protocols:

Bob Gualtieri provided that while the increased attendance at the Masses is a positive it also introduces new challenges regarding social distancing protocols. When a Mass begins to breach 150 people in attendance, especially when there are several larger families, it becomes more and more difficult to keep the distancing in effect. If possible, we want to avoid turning anyone away from attending Mass.

Steve asked if the parish is prepared to open the hall to stream Mass for overflow attendees as it was for the Christmas Masses. Father Bob stated that the logistics will have to be pondered.

AO noted that being prepared for overflow streaming in the hall includes having extra ushers available to be in the hall. Rich reminded the Council that, currently, only the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass is being streamed.

Mary Jane suggested that some of the chairs from the hall be taken to the sanctuary and placed along the windows to be used as overflow.

Closing Thought

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

~Franklin D. Roosevelt

Father Bob closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, 7 March 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Mikus

18 February 2021