

Parish Pastoral Council

Agenda ~ Oct. 15, 2020

Attending: Debbie, Mary, Fr. Ed, Butch, Eddie, Kevin, Melissa

Note Taker: Lynne

1. Opening Prayer – Mary (Responsive Prayer for Justice)

2. Reconnecting / Community Building – Discussion

- Mary's notes of what we have done:
 - Outdoor mass was great
 - New technology is great
 - Call every household initiative
- Eddie's idea:
 - Fireside chats over technology (pick different topics – weekly/biweekly)
Possible topics: what does it mean to sacrifice?, what does the church say about philanthropy? Lay folk talk about their faith – great to hear from Fr. Ed but also from one another. Overall theme should be the immense optimism and hope of our faith, nourishing talks. As a practical matter, let's include in each an encouragement to donate to the church – maybe some of these can be sponsored.
 - Kevin's question re Eddie's idea: Are we doing okay financially?
 - Fr. Ed: Yes, we are. So I wouldn't be worried about income coming in from this. I'd rather use this as a time to say thank you for your contributions. Right after COVID, we didn't want to ask for money, but then we asked top 40 families and then asked everyone. People were very generous. We had one of our best years. Money disappears pretty quick. But folks are allowing us to maintain our structures.
- Kevin's idea:
 - During Lent we used to have a charity each week. Maybe for each of Eddie's idea, we could pick a charity and remind people of those charities.
- Debbie's idea:
 - Have Facebook, with post—what are families at home doing to worship at home? Ask people to post a snapshot of their crucifix at home. It might allow people to interact any more. Simple little things to engender discussion/photos/interaction. Go by topics.
 - Mother wrote Father Ed: they watch the live stream on Sundays, turn off the live stream after the gospel and homily and discuss the gospel.
 - Debbie offered to help be an Admin on Facebook to help out.

- Lynne's idea:
 - Email parents to start a youth group email list.
- Butch's idea:
 - Thinking a lot about family. What will we do for the holidays? Thinking about how to honor the family that has passed too. Is there a day to celebrate the saint day – the day that people pass on? Can we add people's names to the closed captioning to note those people have passed? Can we add those names to the Facebook page?
 - Annual mass for the deceased of the past year will be on November 15. We could invite everyone to bring photos of the people who have passed not just those who have passed in the last year.
- Kevin's idea:
 - Prayer groups – called Renew. What you did is sign up: 8-10 people in each group. And you get together in people's homes – sometimes over a meal and you rotated. There was a structure to it – “Renew Book” and so everyone read the reading and then there was a discussion of that.
 - Terry does a reflection every week – we talk about the upcoming Sunday's reading. Renew had seasons and was a three or four year program.
 - Debbie: Are people connecting in the various groups that aren't meeting regularly anymore like the Faithful Band, etc. Fr. Ed thinks this is mostly coming from the folks themselves.
 - Eddie recommends some of his books for reading and discussing.
- Melissa's idea:
 - Good experience with Renew or book study.
 - Holidays: how many things can we still do: e.g., Scout's wreath drive, Adopt a Family, gifts off the tree.
 - Mary: we aren't going to have the Advent Festival, But we will still have St. Nicholas project (slightly revamped), Tag on the Trees (some on the tree and some on the Sign Up Genius), we'll still sell wreaths. We'll still collect toys for City Team. Collect gift cards for Thanksgiving rather than food directly. We'll figure out how to do Advent Angels – which is outreach to homebound, bereaved, etc.

3. Update: Joint Catholic Ministry for Racial Justice

Grounded in our Baptismal call to embrace life and dignity for all persons as equal and beloved members of the Body of Christ, and condemning the sin of racism as a "destructive and persistent form of evil" (USCCB, 2018), our ministry aims to foster opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, education, and dialogue to promote racial understanding, healing and justice within, among and beyond our parish communities.

New ministry with St. Martin de Porres. Right now building a set of ideas to help us know what we can do toward racial justice in our communities.

- We have a mission, know each other's names.
- All wanted the parishes to get together. Find two Sundays, where we do a "pastor swap plus." On one Sunday, pastor and members of the ministry will go to the other parish for mass that week.

Good that the momentum of a few months ago with BLM is still continuing. In the past, you see momentum slows down or goes on the back burner. We are lucky we have this relationship and interest from St. Martin de Porres. Talking about race is hard, but we are blessed to have these conversations and that is what will bring positive change. Important work and I am glad we are trying to till the soil to establish a good relationship with St. Martin de Porres.

- Really interested in involving our youth – maybe do a youth town hall after an adult town hall.
 - Lynne happy to help with thinking about facilitators.
- No other diocese is doing this – let alone with another parish so we want to have a statement at the archdiocesan level.

4. Closing Prayer – Melissa

Next Meeting: 6:30 pm Nov. 19