

## Pastoral Council Meeting

Sunday January 10, 2021

6:00 pm via Zoom Conference call

Present: Mary Beth Coté, Pat Sormani, Linda Malm, Mike Reis,  
Deacon John, Sharon Gidumal, JoeMcClory, Julie Edmiston, Joe Quinn.

Absent: Fr. Greg

Guests: Dick Schwer, Jim Lennon

### **Call to Order**

Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

**Opening Prayer/Reflection.** ...Come Holy Spirit, Come....by Mary Beth

### **Approval of Dec. 2020 meeting Minutes**

Approved with correction of meeting date for January

### **Committee Reports/Updates –**

Sharon asked if there was anything to share regarding committee reports. Elaine had sent out a youth report beforehand.

Julie said Nancy had sent out information, which is included here: *CFP will continue to do Zoom classes until March 2021. It's hoped to be able to do Outdoor CFP Classes in March until the end of the CFP year. CFP had a virtual Epiphany Class/Party. The children received an Epiphany Party Bag filled with Epiphany crafts and King cake decorating supplies. It was delivered to their homes. Class was held followed by Zoom breakout rooms to do crafts and cake decorating. First Reconciliation was cancelled yesterday. The pastor was ill and could not find an available priest. The rescheduled date is still to be determined.*

For the Winter Arts Festival, to be held virtually on January 23, the order for Capriotti's needs to be in by next Saturday. Sharon encouraged council members to support the Winter Arts Festival.

Jim Lennon mentioned he has 2 high schoolers that are part of the YNIA (Young Neighbors in Action) program, and the fundraisers are for that trip (to Buffalo in July). His sense is that it's easier to get the kids involved in fundraisers because it's tied to the trip. But it's hard to get them to be a part of the regular youth group that meets monthly. Jim suggested it should be all tied together. So, you should be a part of the youth group if you are going to YNIA, and it should all be tied together. He thinks it's hard for Elaine to get people to show up on zoom monthly. He plans to talk to Elaine about this idea.

Mary Beth agreed with this, and thought the YNIA attendees should be fully committed. Jim clarified that the young person doesn't have to be a member of the parish, but it may be easier for Elaine to have one set of meetings. Deacon John pointed out that not

everyone in the youth group participates in YNIA. He thought some may just want to participate in Youth group.

Jim said they are all supposed to do some sort of volunteering in the parish; this comes up at the beginning of every meeting. Deacon John said people don't have to go to YNIA to participate in Youth group, and so it should be separate.

Jim said the only people that do the fundraisers are the ones going on the trip, but it doesn't have to be that way. Deacon John pointed out that the Winter Arts Festival is a fundraiser specifically for YNIA. But people can still be in the youth group without having to go on YNIA.

**ACTION:** Julie will talk to Elaine, Jim may follow up, regarding the idea that if you are going to participate in YNIA you should be a youth group member.

### **Finance Council Report – Any Changes?**

Mike Reis asked for more notice of needing to give a report since he gets the info from Tina. He knows it's typically about 4 times a year that a report is requested

Sharon clarified she's not asking for a formal report, just if he has anything to share. Mike said we're about 10% behind on offertory. This doesn't affect us materially due to staffing changes, but at the end of the day it will affect social concerns in the next budget. If offertory is down 10% there'll be a 10% decrease in the budget for social concerns charitable giving.

### **Old Business**

#### **How we are Bringing Christ to Others**

##### **a) Book, Calendar, Notes**

Sharon recapped this effort. Debbie is out of work for a little while, so Schim is waiting for some info. Fr. Greg has personally delivered ~20 books. So this initiative will continue but is somewhat delayed. Linda offered to help with this, and Susan Sheehan did too.

##### **b) Homeless needs**

Sharon explained that next Saturday there is a drive at Resurrection collecting specific items for the Hope Center, which is a hotel turned into a homeless shelter. The collection will be 12 – 2 on Saturday. The info is in the bulletin, weekly parish email, and on the parish web site.

##### **c) Other ways?**

Sharon asked if there are other ideas?

Mary Beth pointed out ideas can come from anyone, and we should bring ideas from others to council. (The holiday card project came from Schim, for example.) Mary Beth said she tries to remember there are others who are less fortunate or lonely, etc., and she needs to remember to reach out to others.

Dick asked what role Social Concerns takes in this. A lot of these things should be considered by that committee. Sharon's not so concerned about who's responsible since a lot of ideas come up organically. Dick commented we are trying to get the committees functioning, and said maybe they're not because they're not being asked to do anything.

Mary Beth commented that when Covid hit, and things were cancelled, so much committee work went by the wayside since we couldn't really gather. The Lazarus committee, for example, can't have luncheons.

Linda had been thinking about things we could do outside, but the diocesan guidelines were that people should go home after Mass rather than gathering.

Deacon John agreed, a lot of stuff's been happening organically. But we had a focus on racism in the fall, and that could be continued. Efforts by St. Catherine's and St. Joe's are continuing. He suggested someone could connect with Fr Hynes to see how social concerns committee could do something in the future. In terms of long term social justice issues, no one's thinking about that, but is only thinking about short term isolation and things like that.

### **Progress on presenting an opportunity for the support of educational scholarships**

Pat will be talking to Fr. Hynes regarding support for the effort at St. Catherine's.

### **Inclusion of Women in Church Leadership**

Sharon asked if Jim thought they could do something in January with this and he agreed. They had planned to, but hadn't been able to in December.

### **New Business**

#### **How are we Praying, Listening, Discerning the Movement/Direction of the Spirit of God, ("The Wild Goose"), for our parish?**

Sharon asked Mary Beth to lead this discussion.

Mary Beth indicated they had a meeting with Fr. Greg on short notice, and they talked about council's concerns about his presence at the meetings. It is difficult for Fr. Greg to be at meetings that focus on activities. He likes a focus on prayer and listening to the Spirit, and discerning, both in our individual lives and the group. He also brought up that Sundays are difficult for a lot of priests, because the day is so busy and then they like to have time for prayer and some down time. He asked about meeting on another day.

Council views it as essential to be able to interact with Fr. Greg. Of course sometimes things come up, but we should have a scheduled time that would usually work for him.

There was some discussion about Tuesday evenings, which Greg indicated are a good evening for him. The group agreed on 6:30 on the first Tuesday of the month, Feb 2, at 6:30.

There remains some confusion about Communio and Council with regards to communication and purpose. Sharon said it's meant to be prayer oriented not action oriented; to Fr. Greg it's more of a spiritual thing. There has been some interaction between Council and Communio.

Council hopes Fr. Greg can attend the next meeting and there should be an item on the agenda to discuss Communio and how all this comes together.

There were many comments of appreciation regarding Fr. Greg's Masses, as being uplifting and beautiful. We should help him any way we can. It was noted this is the pastor's Council, and we are supposed to be working with him, getting feedback about how to best serve him and help him. The Pastoral Council description on the website indicates the pastor is in charge or at least present at the meetings.

It was suggested we may want to change our agenda to have a longer period of prayer at the start of the meeting before getting down to business.

It was recognized that we are still missing people on Council, and we are close to not having a quorum. Could we encourage Fr Greg to come up with a new appointee? We also need someone from the Liturgy committee and Fr. Greg had a suggestion; Sharon will check with the person. Jack Sanders was the Social Concerns representative. Sharon will also follow up with Fr. Greg regarding appointing someone from the parish Tamil community.

Next there was some discussion about the next meeting. Deacon John will share an extended opening prayer.

Sharon then checked with other meeting attendees for additional thoughts.

Joe Quinn mentioned the Holy Father is dedicating a year to reflection on his pastoral letter (Amoris Laetitia and family); he thought we might be able to do something with it, perhaps via zoom.

Julie thinks Fr. Greg should be part of our meetings so we know what's going on in each other's head; she likes the idea of a reflection with response.

Pat suggested the reflection could be sent out ahead of time, to encourage people to respond to the reflection at the meeting.

**Next Meeting** – Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm

**Closing Prayer – Sharon**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.**