

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 1, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom Conference call

Present: Mary Beth Coté, Pat Sormani, Linda Malm, Sharon Gidumal, Joe McClory, Joe Quinn, Henry Xavier, Steve Grise, Elaine Little (for Julie Edmiston)

Absent: Fr. Greg

Guests: Dick Schwer, Debbie Seymour, Val Bica, Joan McConnell, Ed Baum, Ginger Kaminetzer.

### Call to Order, Welcome to council and guests.

Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. In particular, guests from the Christian Formation Committee were welcomed.

**Opening Prayer/Reflection (extended)** ... Julie provided a prayer which was shared by Elaine.

- Signups for future months

- Confirm: Next meeting date/time – time to have “in person” meetings?

It was agreed to have a short business meeting in July, followed by an opportunity for socializing, at the home of Sharon Gidumal. Dinner will be pot luck. It was decided this will take place on Sunday, July 11.

### Approval of May 2021 meeting Minutes

There were questions about the budget with regards to charitable giving. The charitable giving dollar amount remained the same, so it's a slightly higher percentage than usual. There was some discussion about Mike Reis's resignation from Finance Council; the minutes accurately reflect what happened. Note that Mike was not asked to resign because of any wrongdoing.

The minutes were approved after this discussion.

### Pastor Comments

Fr. Greg was unexpectedly not able to attend, but emailed comments which Sharon read as related items came up for discussion. The appropriate text from Fr. Greg's email is pasted into the relevant parts of the minutes below, indicated with italics.

### Committee Reports/Updates

- Finance Council
  - The budget for 2022 FY was submitted. Dick wanted everyone to understand what the breakdown is of the organizations supported by our charitable giving, Sharon will send out the breakdown from last year's budget. The budget and the breakdown of charitable giving should be published to the parish. There was some discussion about how this should be done. Debbie said they publish it in the bulletin every year, and they can also put the budget in the newsletter with a link to the charitable giving. Dick thought we need to really inform the parish

about what organizations are being supported. Mary Beth agreed and thought the information should all be stated explicitly rather than provided as a link. Sharon said we could both include it in the newsletter and also put a section on the website.

There were some questions about specific organizations that receive donations from the parish. Sharon listed the organizations that are supported.

- Plans for staffing

Sharon shared that Fr. Greg indicated there is a plan to hire a part time music and liturgy coordinator, someone for tech/media/web support, and a pastoral associate for administration. We were reminded that we had previously wanted to hire a lay administrator and the diocese had not given permission, but there is money in the budget for this.

Debbie asked about a Coordinator of Religious Education. This still seems to be an open issue and Sharon will follow up with Fr. Greg.

Elaine asked if the budget for 21/22 was done with those positions included and Sharon said yes.

Sharon said they'll talk to Fr. Greg about going forward with this proposed hiring. Dick said the budget is for 6 staff positions and asked if there are more than that projected. He stressed that Finance Council needs to look at the numbers and make sure we can afford these additional positions. Dick observed that Finance Council seems to be a bit up in the air and asked if there is a Finance Council actually in place.

Linda asked where the budget that was presented came from; it was in process in April and then finalized as it was. Tina is submitting it to the diocese.

Ed asked if the new maintenance position was included; Sharon thought it had to be but not carved out specifically.

- Liturgy Report

Sharon read Fr. Greg's comments, which are shown below in italics.

*Regarding Sunday Mass: "For now, we will continue with one Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m. It is clear that masses have been wonderful. All our ministers coming together with one assembly allows us an experience of the joy which the early church knew. This is how parish is meant to be. As I wrote in last week's bulletin, "Additional Sunday masses grew out of necessity as the number of parishioners grew." We at Resurrection are blessed that we have a vibrant worship space that can accommodate all who want to come (Fire Code capacity is 370)."*

*Regarding Videotaped Masses: "We are taking a break from videotaping masses effective immediately. As you know, our team is outstanding and ALL have*

*worked so hard and given so much. I pray they can get some time to relax and enjoy themselves.”*

Regarding the timing to resume daily Mass: *“At the Deanery level, parishes have all experienced a decline in daily mass attendance. For years, we have promoted the idea that people going to daily mass vary where they go. For example, Tuesday evening mass at Resurrection used to be a diverse group from different parishes. In the last few years, it dropped off to maybe 2 or 3 people total. Bill Graney dropped the Thursday morning mass because so few attended. So. The bigger question is: What is a good pastoral and realistic way forward? Second, the Chapel must be cleaned and improved before we begin using it again. We were beginning that project when Covid hit. Now, we need to resume that work.”*

Steve Grise reported on Liturgy.

- Masses – Steve summarized recent response to lifting of mask requirements, spacing, etc.

Regarding the number of Masses, Steve thought Fr. Greg’s comments were clear. The goal is to worship as one community. A capacity increase could push us to add another Mass, referring to the capacity with 3-foot spacing. Last weekend about 140 people attended Mass. There was some discussion about the exact number of people. There is no state capacity limit any more; we just have to maintain 3 foot spacing between people or family groups. Sharon commented on the blessing of our being able to move the chairs around. Steve said they have to calculate how many chairs they can actually add.

- Steve reported that Cindy Mooney sent out a request for environment help. Environment has been fantastic. But now as we are getting into the summer, Cindy needs some help. Help is also needed to do things like take down the Pentecost banner and move the Cross in a couple of weeks. June 13 is the beginning of ordinary time.

There was some discussion about problems with the sound system quality. For example, the speakers in the back of the worship space were muffled. It is unclear whether the problems are fixable or if the system needs to be replaced. The system may become limited in terms of the number of microphones that can function. The noise from the baptismal font water flow did not help. Mary Beth said a phone call had come in to the office from someone else who also couldn’t hear due to the noise of the baptismal font. Joe Quinn said the water flow can be reduced so it’s not so loud. Ed Baum suggested someone needs to look at amplifiers in the ushers’ closet to see if that will help some of the microphones.

Elaine asked if having the speakers on in the gathering space would help and Val thought maybe it would. Sharon suggested Ed could take a look at the volume controls he mentioned.

- Timing to resume daily Masses  
See Fr. Greg's comments above.

- Religious Education

- Position of CFC on Religious Education at Resurrection

CFC has met a couple of times and put their thoughts down on paper about whether we should handle some religious education activities jointly with another parish. Val explained their position paper, which was sent out ahead of the meeting. They are unanimous in thinking the current system is working; it just needs a new lead. In response to a comment about the current state of the parish, Fr. Greg had asked why don't we want to be a church that does great funerals? It's that we don't want to be "only" about great funerals.

Fr. Greg has also said if we want people to be a part of Resurrection, we need to actively invite people to come. He has been doing that, and there have been some new faces. Sharon agreed the religious ed program is critical.

Joan said they want to get a registration form out for the next school year, and there are things that need to be decided. Val said we need to commit wholeheartedly or not offer the classes to the kids.

Val pointed out we also need adult faith formation.

Ginger asked how many children are in the program. Debbie indicated there are 53 families, but she didn't remember the number of students. Val said they've considered various ways to structure the program.

Sharon asked if we could reach out to the families and ask if they intend to participate if we offer a program. Elaine thought that's the wrong question. Families that are registering for VBS, and giving names of graduates; she thinks they are intending to come back as long as we offer religious ed. Some age groups had bigger numbers than previously. Elaine thought it needs to be asked, if they aren't back in person, why not and what can we do for you? Sharon commented on the uncertainty with regards to a meeting time (because we also don't know how many Masses we'll be having.)

Elaine will get the numbers of kids in religious ed.

Debbie commented on families with younger children that aren't in CFC yet. We have 5 year olds in kindergarten, for example. Debbie said when kids turn 5 they start getting invited to participate. (Fr. Greg has baptized a number of kids.)

Elaine said if we have 2 kids eligible for religious ed, we should have a program. She suggested we need to be careful about valuing numbers instead of individuals.

Debbie commented on CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word) and how well that had gone in the past.

- Parish Life – when to schedule activities

Linda has been advocating for a welcome back event. She spoke with some of the gardeners, and thought maybe a garden party would be a good first event. This could be a chance for people to walk through the garden, and perhaps they could offer some veggies from the garden. Sharon liked the idea and there was general agreement. Linda said they would pick an August weekend but she needs to talk to the gardeners about who's available and interested, and she will do that in next couple of weeks. Debbie should be consulted about the parish calendar. Joe McClory will help with this.

## **Old Business**

- Bringing Christ to Others

Sharon asked if Mary Beth's Wednesday morning group had talked about anything new but they had not. There had been talk about sending out a summer card.

- Women's Voices – updates

Sharon Gidumal, Joe Quinn, and Jim Lennon had put their heads together to discuss this. Sharon commented the Pope has issued some directives recently. Joe thought we should highlight what's going on in the church, for example, Pope Francis's recent change to canon law establishing that women may serve as acolytes and lectors. Sharon said as a follow up she'd agreed to contact Mary Louise and she will work with Sharon to write some pieces for the bulletin or website. We will have to find a way to continue this; it should not be a one-time thing.

## **New Business**

- Council membership/support for Pastor

- What is needed, how to improve
- Liturgy Needs?

Henry asked about plans for the resumption of donuts and coffee after Mass. Sharon didn't know, and neither did Debbie. Mary Beth thought Fr. Greg might want to get everything cleaned up before we start really moving back inside.

Dick was also wondering about opening up the gathering space; who decides? Is it the diocese or do we decide? He also thought it would be a good idea to have a cleanup day. Sharon had thought the same thing.

Elaine also commented that on past cleanup days, they had a whole list of things to do so that people could pick what they wanted to do. If you have food and fellowship, people will come to help.

Sharon asked who would be a good person to coordinate this? Steve thought the new property person, Roy, would be the person. Dick suggested Rich Mays. Sharon will follow up with Fr. Greg and Rich.

## **What's the " Good News" - what have you seen/heard over the last ~ month**

Mary Beth thought Pentecost was great. Joan agreed. Val said, too, every Sunday has been gorgeous. Mass for First Holy Communion was also beautiful.

Mary Beth commented that having multiple languages was special too. Steve said the video mass for Pentecost actually included more languages than the in-person Mass.

Elaine said virtual VBS is going live; children pick up their packets June 13, and then it runs the next week. There are videos to watch, equipment for games. We have had a relationship for VBS with Ebenezer United Methodist Church for more than 40 years. Henry spoke about the second Sunday Tamil gatherings. Last month Fr. William celebrated; this was a jubilee gathering for him.

### **Closing Prayer**

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Sormani