**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday February 16, 2022 (virtual meeting via Zoom)

**In Attendance**: Christina Boss, Marilyn Bridges, John Kelly, Craig Meisman, Megan Neuhaus
Rev. Tim Ralston, Bill Rapp, Jeanie Stephens (Chairperson), Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent**: None

**Guest:** None

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Stephens.

**Opening Prayer**: Chairperson Stephens read Radiate Christ, the Beacons of Light Prayer. This prayer asks Mary to request Christ’s grace so we can be faithful disciples who bear fruit in our archdiocese, parishes, homes, and hearts, and to radiate Christ in all that we do.

**Faith Formation**: Chairperson Stephens recited from this coming Sunday’s gospel (Luke 6:27-38). This passage has Christ encouraging his disciples to give to everyone who asks and seek nothing in return. Jesus also instructs them to do unto others as you would want them to do unto you. It concludes by saying “the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

The Council members began to contemplate the implications of this gospel reading. Christina Boss stated that there is a natural order to the world and then there is a Christian order, one that shows the true meaning of love. Chairperson Stephens added that we must be patient and loving and not make judgements or it will be difficult for us to move forward. Marilyn Bridges then commented that we must keep an open mind and proceed without a personal agenda. Fr. Tim encouraged everyone to focus on the mission thus enabling us to move forward. Bill Rapp mentioned that we should show our true love of God and take the higher ground which may not be easy. Fr. Tim commented on how giving up can be difficult. Christina Boss replied that giving up results in getting great gifts in return. Fr. Tim concluded the discussion by telling everyone that God is always trying to give us good things so we must have our hands open to receive them. Chairperson Stephens delivered a prayer to close Faith Formation.

**Minutes:** Council approved a motion to accept the draft minutes from the October 13, 2021 meeting.

**Beacons of Light:** Fr. Tim began by mentioning the priests, besides himself, assigned to our family effective July 1: Fr. William Wagner, Fr. Thomas Dorn, and Fr. David Endres (weekends). He mentioned that for now, the four focus areas are mass schedules, living arrangements for priests, priest salary payment method, and offices for priests. Bill Rapp inquired about the priest payment plan assuming the archdiocese already had a plan for that. Fr. Tim replied that it is up to the family. He asked for input from the members about this issue. Chairperson Stephens suggested that all four parishes split that cost evenly. Christina Boss proposed a weighted plan where priest expenses would be paid by each parish based upon the need of each parish using some formula. Fr. Tim commented that all parishes currently can pay their priest and that no parish has a debt. Bill Rapp then advised using an equal split plan at first, then deciding if a formula plan might be better in the future. Most members concurred with that plan.

The discussion then moved to the mass schedule. Marilyn Bridges suggested to eliminate the 5 PM mass at St Bernadette. Fr. Tim mentioned that the Saturday evening mass is the least attended at all parishes in the family. He said there are currently 10 masses on weekends (six on Sunday and four on Saturday). Fr. Tim mentioned that he envisions a schedule that can work with three priests. That would allow for an absence of a priest without disrupting the mass schedule. With the three priests, the current Sunday schedule could remain unchanged but some reduction in the Saturday masses is likely.

Chairperson Stephens inquired about things we can now to share with the other parishes. She mentioned about a retreat in March. Fr. Tim stated that perhaps the Chairperson of each Pastoral Council could meet. Chairperson Stephens referred to a planning document (Pastoral Planning Pathway) on the Archdiocese’s website that provides steps that can be taken to move forward. Christina Boss suggested that it would be good for members to read the document and then discuss it at the next meeting. Bill Rapp asked about the future of the Pastoral Council. Fr. Tim replied that for now, the existing Councils from each parish would remain, but eventually one Council representing the entire family would be created.

Christina Boss asked about the living arrangements for priests. Fr. Tim mentioned that two parishes have a rectory. They will most likely be used to house all the priests. The condominium currently used by Fr. Tim will likely be sold sometime after July 1.

**Project Updates –** Father Tim informed the Council that the new tabernacle was installed, and the parish reached its goal of raising $10,000 for the project on Giving Tuesday.

**New Business**: Fr. Tim said that Lent was coming soon. The Boosters are planning their fish fry for the first four Fridays. During Lent, there will be several programs for parishioners. Fr. Tim will make two presentations on saints. In addition, there will be a virtual Lourdes presentation and a Shroud of Turin presentation from Dave Staples of the School of Faith.

Marilyn Bridges asked about the fate of Deacons with the new family of parishes. Fr. Tim said that the five active Deacons would remain to assist.

Christina Boss suggested to keep the Saturday masses at the same time regardless of location.

Bill Rapp inquired about the festival. Fr. Tim replied that a Chair or Co-chairs are still needed.

Bill Rapp asked about the sale of the surplus property. Fr. Tim said that the process is on-going. A meeting with the developer is scheduled for this week.

Fr. Tim mentioned that at a recent meeting of the Deanery, it was reported that one parish has had recent success at bingo. Craig Meisman reported that that issue was brought up at a recent PTA meeting and that it was voted down. Christina Boss reminded the members that a bingo requires a lot of volunteers.

**Ending Prayer:**  The members recited the Hail Mary.

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday March 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Parish Center**

Approved: March 23, 2020