**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday May 5, 2021

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

**Absent**: Marilyn Bridges, Megan Neuhaus, Bill Rapp

**Guest:**

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Stephens.

**Welcome & Opening Prayer**: Christina Boss opened the meeting with a prayer thanking God for the good weather and the opportunity to be together. Her prayer also asked for guidance, clarity, and wisdom particularly for Father to lead the parish. She also offered thanks for returning to “normal” so we can better serve His purpose.

**Faith Formation**: Chairperson Stephens read the gospel for the upcoming Sunday, a reading from
John 15:9-17. This passage has Jesus commanding his disciples to love one another as He has loved them. He calls the disciples his friends since He has told them everything that God has told Him. He also tells them that if they ask the Father for something in His name, the Father may give it to them.

Following the reading, Christina Boss repeated the same gospel reading. Then the members began to reflect upon the words of Jesus. John Kelly spoke of the universality of Christian love and indicted that it is not always easy. Chairperson Stephens recalled a person telling her that one can often substitute a person’s name for the word “love” in the gospel. She also noted that how our parents related to us is how God relates to us. Christina Boss remarked how love and joy are intertwined in the gospel and that if you are filled with love of the Lord, you will pass it along to others. Christ’s willingness to die for us was the ultimate test of His love. Father Tim stated that there is an element of amusement in Jesus’s declaration that you are His friend - if you do what He commands.

**Minutes:** There being no objections to the draft minutes from the March 16th meeting, the Council approved the document.

**Project Updates –** Father Tim informed the Council that:

* He has received no negative feedback from the relocation of statues in Church. They have now been moved for over five weeks. No members of the Council have received any adverse feedback from parishioners. Several members of the Council spoke highly about the relocation.
* The parish has received permission from the Archdiocese for a second tabernacle. Steps will now be taken to acquire a tabernacle and decide on its exact location.
* He mentioned the Beacons of Light/Regional Planning process to the parish several weeks ago. The data previously for this planning process collected is still under review. A meeting for most priests is scheduled for June 4th  at which time more information should be available.

Christina Boss inquired about mass attendance. Father Tim replied that attendance has been increasing since Easter.

**New Business**: Father Tim informed the Council that the parish owns 22 wooded acres along Jenny Lind Road. Several housing developers (Drees, Ryan, and Fischer) have expressed interest in purchasing the land. Preliminary meetings have taken place to discuss the purchase. The Parish Finance Committee has expressed its preliminary approval for a sale.

Prior to any sale, the land must be appraised by two firms. Members of the Finance Committee and Pastoral Council must also agree to sell the land. Then the matter is forwarded to the Archdiocese for their review. If approved by all parties, negotiations for the land sale will then take place.

The members discussed that proposed sale. They were in favor of maintaining a tree line along Jenny Lind to maintain a more aesthetic view behind the altar. The members agreed that the proceeds from the sale should be used for capital improvements to the parish campus, not day-to-day operating expenses.

Members present unanimously gave their approval to proceed with the sale process.

No other new business was presented.

**Pastor’s Updates:** Fr. Tim updated the members on the:

* Parish Festival: There will be no in-person festival again this year. The Committee is exploring an event with a band and food trucks along with refreshments and some games of chance. This would take place in the fall.
* Ordination of Deacon Anthony Marcelli which is scheduled for a few weeks.
* Recent First Communion masses at which 18 received their first Holy Communion.
* Cereal box food drive that the school participated in. The students collected 1,100 boxes that are being donated to local food pantries.
* Totus Tuus, a program for children and teens, that is returning this June to the parish.
* Marian pilgrimage that will be coming to St. Bernadette this summer. Parishioners may walk along for part of the way.

**Ending Prayer:**  Father Tim thanked God for all that He does for our families and the parish. He asked for God’s continual guidance so we may better serve Him and help build His kingdom on earth. He asked the Lord that we live in accordance with the love He has given to us.

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday July 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

***Note: The July 7th meeting was postponed.***

Approved: October 13, 2021