

Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda

Sunday December 13, 2020

6:00 pm via Zoom Conference call

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

Absent: Fr. Greg

Guests: Nancy Maloney, Dick Schwer, Jim Lennon

1. **Call to Order** -Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:03

There was some preliminary discussion before the bulk of the meeting began. Dick mentioned that the liturgy committee needs to have a committee representative. There was some discussion about the liturgy committee, and a comment made that Ed Schieffer may be “the” liturgy committee. Deacon John indicated there is still a liturgy committee.

ACTION: Liturgy committee status, membership, needs to be discussed with Fr. Greg.

2. **Opening Prayer/Reflection** – Joe McClory

3. **Approval of Nov 2020 meeting Minutes** – sent in email on 12/07/2020

Approved as written.

4. **Brief committee reports/updates**

Fr. Greg had sent Sharon some comments and information pertinent to liturgy. Sharon reported that Fr. Greg mentioned that Fr. Tom Kane has gone to Florida; he will be back in the spring. There is a team of people to work on the environment for Christmas. Video Masses still being filmed by Ed Schieffer and Steve Grise. Mary Beth and Brian are responsible for assigning people to various ministries for Masses, until Lent. Sharon will forward Fr. Greg’s email so we can all see the details of what was communicated.

Nancy mentioned that Zoom classes have been going on since December. For St. Nicholas Day, they dropped goodies at the kids’ houses. Normally they would have an Epiphany party for the kids, but this year they may do a zoom class/party.

Julie indicated that Elaine sent a Youth Ministry report. Middle and high school students are continuing to meet. The Salvation Army bell ringing event was yesterday. For raising funds for the summer service project, the Winter Arts Festival is being held January 7 – 23 on line. There will be a live stream of performances on January 23. They are hoping to have a Capriotti’s sale with order pickup on 1/23. People can then eat their Capriotti’s meal while watching the live stream. Capriotti’s will sell to us at a discount so this will provide some proceeds for the summer service project.

February 19 is the Souper Supper. The hope is to have pre-orders of a choice of 4 or 5 soups. All orders will be to go, and they may have a Zoom gathering for people to participate in while they eat their soup.

Linda reported on the Giving Tree. She is sorting gifts tomorrow. Snow is predicted on Wednesday, so this is complicating delivery. So she would like to have delivery on Tuesday, and asked if someone would be in the building to let us in. Sharon will follow up with Linda tomorrow.

5. Brief Finance Council report

Mike Reis gave an update on finance council. Finances remain strong. But there are underlying trends that are not strong. November was the first month that saw the deficit shrink. We are currently \$14,000 behind on projections. They are noticing more drop off in donations as the pandemic progresses. Weekly envelopes are given more sporadically now. Electronic giving is steady. To address this, we have been postponing projects, some of them for years. Other factors are the vacant liturgy position, reduced diocesan expenses, and small things like coffee/donuts not being offered. The Christmas collection does not fall under the category of offertory; it falls under other income and is our biggest item of the year. Easter is the second biggest, and last Easter we only collected about 60% of what we had anticipated. It will be a big hit if Christmas is the same.

Mary Beth asked if people aren't coming or are not using the envelopes. There's really no way to know. Deacon John typically takes the collection and there are not very many envelopes. Mostly it's electronic payments. Mike said Tina does receive quite a number of offerings in the mail.

But overall income is down. Deacon John pointed out that last Easter was when we were all shut down. But the situation is really not much better now, Mike pointed out.

Chip just gave his stewardship message to the parish, which is posted on the website. Mike said they're not looking to boost the collections; it's the wrong time to ask for money when people can't go to church. Sharon acknowledged this, and said there are ways to ask if we need to ask for more support.

JoeMcClory commented it's amazing we're in as good shape as we are; he thought many other organizations are struggling even more, and he commended Mike and Chip.

6. Christmas / Holiday Mass plans:

Sharon shared the schedule of Masses:

- 3 Masses on Christmas eve (3pm, 5pm, 7pm) – Fr. Greg presiding
- 1 Mass on Christmas day at 10 am – Fr. Bill Graney presiding
- Note: Ministers are in place, except that a sacristan is needed for 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass. There is a backup plan if no sacristan is available.

Thanks to Mary Beth and Brian for making sure everything is covered.

Mary Beth asked that if anyone knows someone who could be a sacristan, please let her know. There are only 4 sacristans. They have called all previous sacristans, but have not identified anyone else at the present time.

7. Old business

a. Communio

Sharon shared a diagram (included below) she created attempting to explain how Communio relates to other parish groups, what the vision looks like. Sharon created the diagram, based on talking to Fr. Greg, staff, and the Communio team. Communio is meant to be a connector, and meant to have overlap with other individuals and groups at the parish. While Communio is involved with everything, it is not in control, but rather interacts with others in the parish. Sharon

acknowledged having heard concerns about the role of Communio. It's meant to guide Fr. Greg spiritually and administratively.

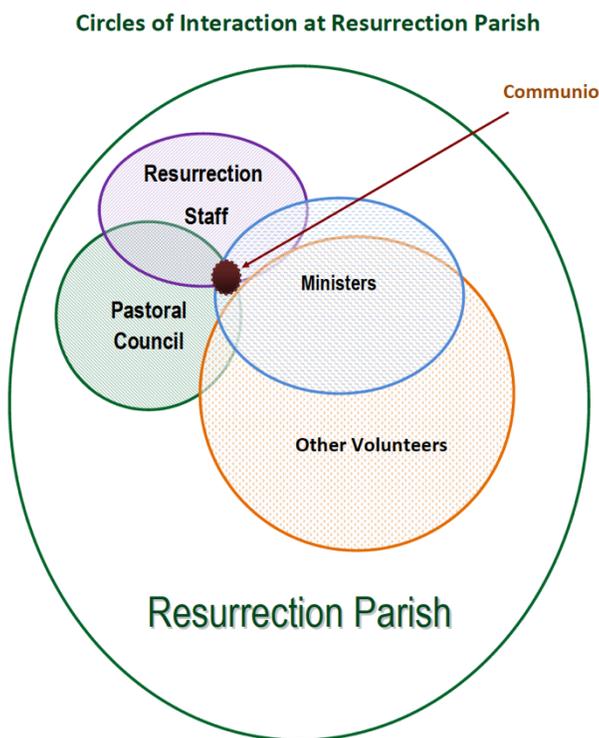
Jim also spoke about Communio at Sharon's request. Jim acknowledged what Sharon said; it's an evolving concept. He doesn't think it's envisioned to be a decision-making body. The purpose is just to help Fr. Greg connect, beyond the traditional parish institutions. Fr. Greg asked Jim to help because he was born in this parish, had volunteered to teach, and he might have a different perspective. Sharon said Communio has met with staff twice.

There was additional discussion, with some saying they don't really understand what it is. There were questions about recent functioning of Communio, and concern that Communio is making decisions for the parish. Sharon commented that Fr. Greg has empowered Communio to drive forward things like liturgy and environment, but they run every decision past Fr. Greg. Sharon said they've met as a group once, and with staff twice.

There is concern that Fr. Greg is breaking connections with Pastoral Council, and if the pastor's not present, does it count as a meeting? A request was made, asking for more clarification about Communio and Fr. Greg's involvement in Pastoral Council. Also, it was suggested that Sunday evenings may be difficult for Fr. Greg, and maybe there is a more convenient time for Fr. Greg to meet.

ACTION: Sharon will follow up with Fr. Greg and ask for communication between Communio and Pastoral Council.

ACTION: Sharon will follow up with Fr. Greg and ask if there is a better time than Sunday evenings for Pastoral Council to meet so he can join.



b. Activities to bring Christ to others

Sharon shared information about the following items and will ask for help.

- Cards to Nursing Homes –this was driven by a parishioner, not by Communion or Council.

There was an overwhelming response.

- Books for Christmas / Epiphany

There was a thought to put together one of the leftover cards, with the book given out at Christmas and maybe some other goodies, and deliver to people after Christmas, to parishioners who haven't been able to get to Mass. It could be called an Epiphany gift. This depends on how many people show up to take their book. We'll know who came to Mass so we'll know who should get a book. There was a thought to ask council members to help. Perhaps there could be 10-15 deliveries per volunteer. Many people volunteered at the Council meeting. It's also possible to ask people who'd volunteered to deliver meals.

- Other opportunities?

Sharon asked if there are any other ideas? The ones we have are lovely so far.

This discussion gave Mary Beth an idea for bringing communion to people who might want it, since Debbie knows who's not able to get to Mass. Sharon indicated a lot of people are coming up after Mass and getting communion to take to others. Deacon John commented that he doesn't believe it needs to be a plastic-wrapped host; he indicated we have plenty of hosts in the tabernacle.

Deacon John said, the diocese has said, in this circumstance we technically should not be bringing communion because if you go into someone's home, you could infect them or be infected. Sharon said you don't have to go into a home in order to bring communion.

Mary Beth liked a comment made that you can put the regular host into an envelope. She has taken communion to parishioners, and she meets the person at her car, or she goes up to the door and she hands it to them so they can take it out of the envelope. They are regular parishioners, and know what they're receiving and the significance of it. She said the people are grateful. She does not enter the house. She and they are wearing masks. Deacon John agreed, you can do this without going into the house.

c. Education: Scholarships, Tutoring

Julie looked at the TeenSHARP website. She thought it's a great service, but it would be a lot of work and she didn't think we should go try to start working with it. Mary Beth said TeenSHARP did not respond to her email volunteering to be a tutor. She wondered if they're functioning right now.

Pat reported on her conversation with Fr. John Hynes about his experiences in funding some scholarships for kids to go to Catholic school. He knew kids to work with from them being at All Saints previously. The parish paid 1/4 of the tuition, the family paid 1/4, and the school made up the difference. The money came out of regular parish funds; they also had a fund specifically for this (The Catherine Fund) which people could donate to, but this did not cover the whole costs. He is generally aware of kids whose families could use tuition assistance because they are members of the parish. Fr. Hynes also suggested funding through Christo Rey schools. He also suggested Nativity Prep in Wilmington. This is a tuition-free Catholic school for boys. So

we could choose to work through one of those instead of trying to identify individuals we could support.

Pat asked the group, what should come next? Deacon John suggested people interested could support the work that St. Catherine's is doing. He suggested maybe we should just contribute to their fund.

Mary Beth thought we could invite people to contribute, or just let them know about it if they want to support a student. So, we could advertise that the opportunity exists.

Pat will talk to Fr. Hynes after Christmas about supporting the Catherine Fund at Resurrection. We would need him to write something up about what they're doing and how, and then communicate it to the parish.

d. Inclusion of Women in Church Leadership

Sharon summarized the previous discussion about including women's voices in communications. Jim was planning to talk to Cory. He reported that Cory is interested in doing it, but Jim hasn't given her any more direction. He asked what's the next step, what the logistics should be. Sharon commented we have the bulletin (which has space restrictions) and the weekly newsletter. She thought the newsletter is a better place for this. She thought we could plan for a monthly voice. Pat suggested if only the weekly newsletter is used for this, it would seem like an afterthought, and the bulletin should also be used.

Deacon John mentioned the website gets wide circulation, and we agreed the bulletin is appropriate.

e. Working against Racial Injustice

Deacon John commented the group discussing racial justice issues is continuing to meet; they had a follow up call after the initial series of calls. They will come up with suggestions to have contact between parishes. There's also going to be additional meetings. Deacon John also commented he thought the likelihood is after Jan 20, we'll also have a new bishop.

8. New business

Mary Beth had a follow up suggestion to earlier discussions. She suggested to let Fr. Greg know the concerns and tell him about the activities that we're trying to promote. If he just came as a listener, he would learn about the dreams and hopes of people in the parish.

Jim thanked Nancy for the fantastic job in CFP. He thought the little goody bag was great. Nancy has taken a lot of the burden off the teachers.

Deacon John asked us to keep Ruth and Jack in our prayers; they tested positive for the virus.

Joe Quinn had volunteered to be part of the group working to include women in church leadership positions, and he'll do that. He also reminded us about Deacon John's idea to welcome people in nearby apartment complexes. He thought maybe we could have something to hang on people's doorknobs, to let them know about the parish.

Linda asked if the apartment complexes have no soliciting notices. She's sometimes gotten postcards in the mail from organizations or churches; sending postcards is not soliciting whereas hanging tags on doorknobs would be considered soliciting.

9. **Next gathering:** Jan 10, 2020
10. **Closing Prayer** - Deacon John offered a closing prayer
11. **Adjourned** at 7:16 pm