

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Aug 3, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom Conference call

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

Absent: Steve Grise

Guests: Dick Schwer, Debbie Seymour, Mike Rzucidlo, Ginger Kaminetzer

### Call to Order, Welcome to Council and guests

Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

### Opening Prayer/Reflection (extended) - Pat Sormani

- Next meeting date/location

It was agreed the next meeting will be September 7 via zoom at 6:30 pm.

### Approval of July 2021 meeting Minutes

Some minor corrections had been sent ahead of time. Dick will send a clarification to his remark in the minutes after tonight's meeting. The minutes were approved with these changes/corrections.

### Pastor Comments

- New Bishop – interaction

Fr. Greg made some comments in an email sent prior to the meeting, included here in italics. *“He seems wonderful. First impression: he is kind, humble, approachable, and ready and willing to do whatever he can to help the diocese of Wilmington. We are truly blessed.”*

Sharon asked if the bishop will visit soon, and Fr. Greg indicated the bishop is traveling from parish to parish.

- Staffing:

- Pastoral Assistant
- CFC/education
- Bookkeeper

Fr. Greg indicated they've interviewed 2 candidates for CFC. The interviews went well. Fr. Greg said there's faith and goodness in both candidates, and they want to participate in a parish like this.

- Other

Fr. Greg said they'd received holy cards with the new bishop's picture, and a prayer on back. Some cards had the prayer in English, and some cards had the prayer in Spanish, and he asked Henry to translate the prayer into Tamil so they could print some of those, too.

### Committee Reports/Updates

- Finance Council – Sharon reported (for Chip)
  - Status of Budget for 2022 FY

- Chip apologized for not being able to make the meeting. He has accepted leadership of Finance Council. Sharon read Chip's email, which is included below in italics. Fr. Greg signed the budget and took it to the diocesan office.

Chip's email:

*"My apologies to all for not being able to join tonight's zoom meeting because of a long-standing prior engagement.*

*I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the year ahead to ensure we have clarity with regard to our ongoing financial performance and our financial condition.*

*With regard to the fiscal year 2021 budget and actual results, we had a very good year even in the midst of COVID impacts. This is primarily because of continuing positive Offertory contributions and lower than projected expenses resulting from infilled positions.*

*With regard to Fiscal Year 2022 budget:*

- *final version of the detailed budget is with Fr. Greg for signature. Once it is signed, it will be submitted to the Diocese.*
- *the budget projects a deficit of about \$24,000, resulting primarily from filling three open positions — P/T religious Ed coordinator, P/T liturgy coordinator and F/T Parish Operations Manager.*
- *once Tina has had a chance to convert the detailed budget into the summary-level budget that Council is used to seeing, we will share it with you.*

*Please contact me by email or mobile if you have any immediate questions or concerns. Thank you."*

Dick observed there are 3 staffing positions, and he wondered what the status is for a liturgy coordinator. Fr. Greg indicated they know they need to add that position too. It's funded as a part-time position.

Sharon indicated Tina was pursuing the status of the forgiveness of the PPP loan.

Tina has resigned as bookkeeper but will stay until a replacement is found. Fr. Greg said Pat Szwed, who retired as a finance professional from DuPont, was invited last year to join Finance Council and she's been a big contributor. Pat will do whatever she can to help us go forward.

- Charitable Giving

The steering team is meeting on August 9. The team will review the commitments made and any changes that have happened; the revised budget does put us back at 5.50% of offertory for charitable giving. Dick asked if the numbers would be reduced but the offertory budget has been adjusted due to a strong June.

Fr. Greg said the diocese has indicated that charitable contributions overall have gone down nationally, but in Roman Catholic parishes they've actually gone up a bit, because those who are already generous became even more generous.

Elaine asked who the steering team is: Sharon Gidumal, Pat Sormani, Sandy Landoll, Jack Sanders, Cheryl Christiansen, Trish Herron.

- Liturgy Report

- Impact of COVID/restrictions

Steve wasn't present to report on Liturgy. We wondered if there is any feedback from the diocese around Covid and the delta variant. Sharon acknowledges some people have stopped attending Sunday Mass lately.

Fr. Greg said that no guidance from the diocese has yet been given regarding this. He noted about 50% of the people who came to Mass last weekend wore a mask. He said we're still working through a time of difficulty, and that God's love will see us through. Fr. Greg commented on the beauty of the liturgies we've been having.

Elaine said some parents who are with the schools or diocese said it will be a couple of weeks before the next guidance for school year comes out.

Dick asked again about moving the 9:30 Sunday Mass to a later time or adding another Mass. Sharon reiterated it has been discussed, and hasn't yet been decided to add another Mass. Fr. Greg pointed out it's vacation time right now and he wanted to do a video Mass but vacations interfered with finding enough people to help.

Ginger commented her previous parish in New Jersey set up an iPhone on a tripod and live streamed the Mass. Fr. Greg had bought a mevo designed for livestreaming, but he was discouraged by others, and he commented on guidelines we need to follow with regard to YouTube regulations, which prevent us from doing a livestream and posting it there. Fr. Greg acknowledged there are other platforms, but he was told no by his experts. They want to do an excellent video production.

Fr. Greg wants to have a tech person to help; we want to do more, but we need help.

Joe McClory thought people will adjust more quickly this time and hopefully attendance will come back faster than previously, given relatively high vaccination rates.

Fr. Greg mentioned the dream of any pastor is to have your whole community there together. They don't like to have a "Saturday" parish, etc. We're celebrating together like we never have before because we're all together. It's the ideal but it won't last forever. We can negotiate over a better time.

After the meeting, Fr. Greg provided a writeup he'd done several months ago for the bulletin, addressing the question raised about adding another Sunday Mass. It is included in an addendum at the end of the minutes.

- Religious Education

- ~~YNIA~~ Youth Trip update

Elaine reported they had a successful trip to New Kensington, PA. It is interesting to see how different organizations run their trips. We were the 6<sup>th</sup> of 7 groups at this location, each for a week. This is a Christian nondenominational organization. There were 8 kids who went on the trip. The name of the organization is Group Mission Trips (not YNIA).

There were 80 parishioners who had helped with the trip in various ways; fundraising was very successful and there are some excess funds remaining (\$500). The kids were asked to write thank you notes to parishioners who supported the efforts. Several people at the Council meeting had received thank you notes.

On Sept 12, they have a meeting to plan for next year.

Registrations are out for K-12, one family so far is registered.

The diocese is hosting a summer mini-fest from 12 – 3 at Seton on Saturday.

- Parish Life – plans for August “garden party”

Linda reported on this; it's planned for August 22 after Mass. The goal is to have an opportunity for socializing, to see the garden and enjoy the beauty. They will share light refreshments made from the abundance in the garden. Some sort of shade will be put up. It is planned to end around noon. Mary Beth and others from the garden are involved; they are trying to contact folks who used to be involved with the parish life committee. Info was sent to Debbie to publicize. If people have smaller tents or greenhouses that are easy to set up, let Linda know so it will be easier for them. They will bring a few stacks of chairs for people who might need them, but it's not planned to be a sit down party. They may do door prizes, and there will be name tags for attendees. Joe McClory suggested the door prizes could be produce from the garden.

Linda shared that Mark Oliver wrote for a grant for community gardens and the woman who oversees it came to see our garden on Friday. There will be a video about the garden on YouTube. Someone came by and asked if she could sit down for a while. So, thanks to Mark Oliver we are enjoying the garden and so are strangers.

- Elections

Before Fr. Greg left the meeting, Dick asked for Fr. Greg's input on the restarting of election plans. He deferred to Dick.

Dick laid out the election process in an email, which he summarized at the meeting. He was commended for a well thought out plan.

Joe McClory commented we'd previously had people sign up to cover the Masses during nomination Sundays. Dick agreed, and we do have a limited number of opportunities to attract people. It will require a lot of one-on-one invitations to get people to consider running for Council.

Joe Quinn volunteered to help out with the information tables.

Debbie thanked Dick and asked about the standing committees, and whether their representatives on Council are elected by the parish. Dick said yes, in order to meet diocesan guidelines for membership and election of Council members, standing committees have to have a nominee on the ballot. This will be a new process for the parish. (This was due to a change in by laws.) The candidates for each committee should be associated with the particular committee.

Elaine commented for information that September 19 is Catechetical Sunday. She also suggested we have someone speak at Mass about elections and what Council is about on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August. Dick thought that is a great idea.

Pat raised question about short timing. Dick said he'd been concerned about the timing too. There are pluses and minuses to the current timing vs. delaying one month.

Linda asked if we should encourage parishioners to attend the next Council meeting or two by zoom. Ginger agreed that being a visitor has helped her to understand what Council is about.

Elaine asked if staff people can be nominees for committee rep, and Dick said no. We've sometimes overlooked whether staff can be alternates.

Sharon asked if Henry thought he could get any interest from members of the Tamil community, and Henry thought maybe. Some of the members of the community come from different parishes, but he said he would check with people.

Council voted to approve the election plan. This is included at the end of the minutes for reference.

The election subcommittee will consist of Joe Quinn, Joe McClory, and Dick Schwer.

Dick will provide information for Debbie to publicize.

### **New Business**

Rich Mayes put in an order for parking lot paint. It's on back order, and once it comes in he will mark additional handicapped parking spots.

Elaine also said Rich had said he's trying to get the materials for the chapel floor and has gotten a couple of estimates, materials are on back order. We are also planning to

replace flooring in some of the meeting rooms; it might take some time before that can be done.

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

Pat shared how someone had asked about more handicapped spots and she explained the plan to increase the number of spots.

Joe McClory commented he read the issue of the Dialog welcoming the new bishop.

Joe Quinn said Fr. Bill is having a procedure done soon, and asked for prayers.

Sharon commented on the Liturgy of the Word service being held tomorrow morning; Mary Beth is organizing this.

Sharon also asked for prayers for Fr. Greg as well as all who have stepped up over the past year, and for prayers to help our community.

The meeting was adjourned before 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Sormani

## **Resurrection's Pastoral Council Election Restart**

### **Introduction**

Because of COVID-19, Resurrection's Pastoral Council has not been able to hold elections for stewards and standing committee representatives the past two springs. Council members holding these positions have been willing to remain in their positions during this time so that the Council could stay largely intact. Now that the state of emergency in Delaware has been lifted and the obligation to attend Mass in person has been reinstated by the Diocese, Council is in a position to restart the election process this coming fall with the intent of returning to the Bylaws guidance for the conduct of elections and the composition of Council over the next few years. All four positions for stewards and the four representatives for standing committees need to be voted upon. After the new Council is seated, there should be an election for Council Officers (Executive Officer, Assistant Executive Officer and Secretary). Also at this time the Pastor would need to consider pastoral appointees. This proposal, upon approval of Council is to provide the basis for the election process.

### **Timeline**

**August:** The Election Restart Proposal would be approved by Council. An Elections Sub-committee (ES) would be appointed by Council. Forms and procedures for the nomination and election steps would be developed by the ES. Notification of the upcoming elections and nominations would be given to the Parish.

**September:** Nominations would be available in the gathering space after Mass during two weekends, probably on September 12 and September 19 using procedures and

forms developed by the ES. Nominations would be confirmed by the ES who would request biographical information and pictures from the candidates.

October: Elections would be held in the gathering space after Mass on two weekends, probably on October 17 and October 24 again using procedures and forms developed by the ES. Candidate names, bios and pictures will be made available to the Parish prior to the elections. Votes would be counted after Mass on the second Sunday (10/24) and the candidates immediately notified of the results which would also be made available to the Parish. The Pastor would also choose up to two pastoral appointees at this time.

November: The parishioners selected as stewards, committee representatives and pastoral appointees would take office during the November Pastoral Council meeting. The Pastor would assign each steward to a grouping of parishioners alphabetically.

December: The Council would elect new Council Officers in accordance with procedures in the Council Bylaws. (This could also be done at the November meeting but it was felt that giving Council members a little more time to get to know each other would be beneficial.) These terms would end in September 2023.

### **Council Terms**

In order to introduce staggered terms and prepare for the next Council elections in the spring of 2023, some terms for stewards and committee reps would be 1 1/2 years (ending in June 2023) while some terms for these positions would be 2 1/2 years (ending in June 2024). The terms for pastoral appointees would be 1 1/2 years. Nomination information would clearly need to differentiate between the two steward positions that would be for 1 1/2 year terms and the two steward positions for 2 1/2 year terms. Because of Bylaws specifications, the standing committee reps for Christian Formation and Liturgy would be 1 1/2 year terms and the reps for Social Concerns and Parish Life would be 2 1/2 year terms. When the next Council elections take place in the spring of 2023, the two steward positions and two standing committee reps up for election would be for two year terms. The same for Council elections in the spring of 2024.

The requirements in the Bylaws for six-year limitations without a break for elected and appointed Council members would be suspended for the fall elections. Also the limitation for Council Officers of three consecutive one-year terms would be suspended for the next election of officers. This would increase the number of parishioners available to run for Council this year since we have more positions to fill. Also limitations would be difficult to determine for current Council members. Finally this would hopefully increase the opportunity for continuity on Council and avoid a complete turnover in Council membership.

**Addendum:** Letter from Fr. Greg addressing question of additional Sunday Mass time.  
“OUR SUNDAY GATHERING

The renowned liturgist and writer, Robert Hovda, reminds us, “To speak of the environmental and artistic requirements in Catholic worship, we have to begin with ourselves—we who are the church. While it is common to use the same name to speak of the building in which the assembly of believers worship, such use is misleading. In the words of ancient Christians, the building used for worship is called *domus ecclesiae*, the house of the church.”

Hovda stresses that Catholics must continue to bring about the depth of the reform which was the real business of the Second Vatican Council. One of the primary focuses was the realization that “the church gathers as one body” and, “the most powerful experience of the sacred is found in the celebration and the actions of the persons celebrating—the action of the assembly.”

“The entire assembly is the primary minister in liturgy. Thus, we need to question ourselves when we regard the church building as a service station for individual Christians rather than as the gathering place of the faith community. The multiplication of masses on Sunday is a clear example of how necessity is the mother of corruption.

Somewhere along the line we asked for a second Sunday liturgy to accommodate our growing numbers. This reluctant concession to necessity became the norm and now we think there’s something wrong if don’t offer a separate Eucharist for every different time schedule and preference.”

Last fall, in writing about “the opportunities” that have come to us along with the tragic consequences of the pandemic, I stressed the powerful beauty and witness of ALL OF US being together at the table of the Lord. There is a unique blessing that happens when the “local church” gathers as one. It is like the experience of the first Christian communities. One bread, one cup, one meal.... And those who were homebound, were brought their share of the meal by “*diakonos*,” servants who cared for many through their outreach.

I recognize how our gatherings are growing. This is grace, a blessing to be sure. And, no doubt, we may one day need to consider “options” out of necessity. But while we have this moment, I give thanks to God, and to you, the Church of Resurrection. You are loving, strong and wise.

Peace,

Fr. Greg Corrigan”