

St. Francis de Sales and Prince of Peace Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2020

Attendees:

Jim Wilson	X	Kathy Batdorf	X	Richard & Patrick Blasdell	X	Janet Bowman	X
Michelle Brooks	X	Chris Brooks	X	Linda Dousa	X	Liz Gonzalez	X
Nikki Gorski	X	Deanna Hoppe	X	Oscar Molina	X	Sue Moore	X
Jan Murdza	X	Earle Prior	X	Sally Raphael	X	Isabel Sans	X
Cynthia Santiago	X	Pat Stone	X	Carole Ward	X	Steven White	X
Alicia White	X	Sheila Wright	X	Deacon Chuck Hoppe	X	Deacon Carlos Morales	X
Deacon Jim Sullivan	X	Fr. Jack Ward	X	Fr. Jaime Garcia	X	Martine Uveges	X

The Meeting came to order at: 7:03pm

Opening Prayer: Fr. Jaime led everyone in the opening prayer

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Pastoral Council has not met since February 2020, and Masses have been able to resume albeit with masks, physical distancing, and sanitizing. As of September 1, 2020 Fr. Jack is being transferred to Our Lady of the Fields church in Millersville, and Fr. Jaime will be the future administrator and only priest assigned for both St Francis de Sales (SFdS) and Prince of Peace (PofP) parishes. With all the changes, Fr. Jaime scheduled this joint virtual Pastoral Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mass Schedule: Fr. Jaime shared the proposed future weekend and weekday Mass Schedules for both parishes after conferring with parish leaders, clergy, and staff. Each parish had weekday Masses Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri, with a communion service Thursday (thanks to Deacon Jim and Deacon Carlos). The new Mass and confession schedule will be:

Parish	Weekday Masses	Weekend Masses		Confessions
		Saturday	Sunday	
PofP	12n – Mon, Thurs	4p	10:30a	Sat: 3-4p
SFdS	9a -Tues, Wed, Fri	5:30p	8a, 10:30a, 1p (Spanish)	Sun: 7:30-8a, 12:30-1p

On Wednesday, Fr. Jaime’s day off, another priest will be here for Mass. This schedule allows daily Mass to be available for both parishes and, if needed, one priest to preside at Saturday Mass at both parishes. It is anticipated that this schedule will be reevaluated at Christmas.

Monthly Meetings Schedule: Fr. Jaime proposed monthly meetings in the first week of each month for efficiency. The clergy and deacons meeting would be Monday, the SFdS Pastoral Council and staff meeting(s) Tuesday, and Prince of Peace Pastoral Council and staff meeting(s) Thursday.

Priest Assistance for Masses: Fr. Jaime reported that it would be expensive to have another priest help full time. It would be half the cost for a priest to help with weekend Masses only plus Wednesday Mass.

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A feasible plan was been worked out for Fr. Roque to say Wednesday Mass and two Masses on the first and third weekends (one on Saturday and one on Sunday). Another priest can help on the occasional fifth weekend, so long as it is scheduled way in advance, like a year.

Topics for September Meetings: Fr. Jaime said the schedules for Christmas and Holy Week will be discussed at the clergy, staff, and council meetings the first week in September. Old schedules can be looked at and other priests can be considered. By mid-August there should be an idea of what RCIA will look like and who would be received into the church at Easter. People should bring their ideas to the September meeting.

New Fees for Weddings, Funeral Services: Prior to the meeting Fr. Jaime shared a document outlining the service fees for Baptisms, Weddings, and Funeral Services (attached). Other parishes were contacted regarding their fees, and these fees for the church facility, priests, deacons, organist, and vocalists are comparable. Fr. Jaime and Danny Cajigas plan to visit all the funeral homes to let them know they can contact us for funeral services. In response to Steven's question about how musicians would be paid, Fr. Jaime clarified the family would pay the full package fee to the funeral home, who would give the full funeral service fee to the church, who would make sure the musicians received their appropriate pay. This should make it easier for the family and ensure all parties receive payment for their services.

General Council Comments: Fr. Jaime opened the meeting for comments about all these proposed changes. Jim W said everyone needs to be supportive of these changes, especially with scarce liturgical resources. Jan seconded Jim's comments adding that all need to have a positive attitude and asked if Fr. Jaime would spend time at Prince of Peace. Fr. Jaime outlined his personal schedule: Mondays at PofP all day, Tuesdays at SFdS all day, Wednesday is his day off, Thursday mornings at PofP, then lunch and afterward at SFdS, and Fridays at SFdS all day. Fr. Jaime would like to resume Masses on Mondays at two nursing homes when that is possible. When there are fees for priests for extra services, the cost will be split based on the percentages of parishioners – PofP 15%, SFdS 85%.

Jim W asked when these changes will be announced and implemented. Fr. Jaime said the changes will take effect September 1, 2020, and he would like everyone's advice and support. Sue said the changes are good, and we all will be supportive. Jan said it is essential that both councils support the changes. Fr. Jack noted this is a daunting job; Fr. Jaime will be doing the job of two people. Looking at September, Deanna clarified that the meetings will occur the week following the first Monday of the month (eg Sept 7 (Labor Day Monday), Tuesday (Sept 8), and Thursday (Sept 10)).

Fr. Jaime said he will write a letter announcing the changes and send it to both council presidents for their signatures as well. Cynthia said the letter was good to present a united front, and everyone should encourage parishioner participation with the good and safe changes, and support people who may ask questions.

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Earle noted that SFdS has Masses on Facebook and Youtube. Some parishioners are reluctant to view the PofP Masses on Facebook and asked if they could be on Youtube, too. Michelle announced that PofP now has a Youtube channel which will be announced soon. Fr. Jaime let everyone know that Liz is able to post the live Masses online for SFdS, and Michelle and Diane Lewis are able to post live Masses online for both SFdS and PofP, so they back up each other. Sally shared that her neighbor, a nurse, complemented the safety procedures practiced for Sunday Mass at SFdS.

Fr. Jack's Final Thoughts: Fr. Jack thanked everyone for 10 wonderful years in Harford County. He felt at home at Prince of Peace, and 5 years later at St Francis de Sales. It has been a joy, and he has been blessed. Everyone has been involved and worked together as a team and became friends. Fr. Jack said Fr. Jaime has been a good friend. We are in good hands with Fr. Jaime and each other. Fr. Jack gave everyone his blessing.

Meeting Adjourned by Fr. Jaime at 7:58pm

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Uveges, Secretary