

St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2020

Attendees:

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|---|
| Jim Wilson | X | Herman Bush | Kathy Batdorf | Madison Buddenbohn | | | |
| Liz Gonzalez | X | Nikki Gorski | Oscar Molina | X | Gloria Morales | | |
| Patrick Perkins | X | Sally Raphel | X | Isabel Sans | X | Cynthia Santiago | X |
| Gabriele Segletes | X | Diane Traube | Dan Zankowitz | Deacon Chuck Hoppe | X | | |
| Deacon Carlos Morales | | Deacon Jim Sullivan | X | Fr. Jaime Garcia | X | Martine Uveges | X |

The Meeting came to order at: 7:03pm

Opening Prayer: Jim W led everyone in the Pastoral Council Prayer

Approval of Minutes: After noting one typo (RCIA instead of PCIA), Sally motioned to approve the September minutes; Gabriele seconded; all approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stay the course – Liturgical services, empathy, outreach: Jim W invited Fr. Jaime to reiterate the three parish priorities and focus for the Council. Fr. Jaime said basically we are to preach the gospel, spread the Good News, and take care of the poor, orphans, and widows. That is essentially providing the sacraments and being present in any way, which has been done via social media, bulletins, Flocknotes, and various ways. We were able to help any who came to St Francis de Sales for help. Secondly, that requires people, and those people need to be paid. We need to meet the payroll for people to do such things as provide Religious Education, pay bills, and answer the phones. Thirdly we need to be good stewards and take care of our church to be able to leave it for the next generation.

Jim W thanked Fr. Jaime and echoed how these needs have been met since the physical restrictions imposed in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Better ways have been found to use technology to reach out to others and provide virtual Masses, food has been dropped off and casseroles have been delivered for Outreach, and the church doors have been opened for Mass according to prescribed protocols since early May with a handful and now hundreds of people attending and receiving the Eucharist. The Outreach and Liturgy people are doing a great job.

Development Committee Update: Jim W reported that when the pandemic hit, Phase 1 of the Capital Campaign had met its goal of \$130,000, with commitments of \$140,000, and ~80% of the funds have been collected thus far. The operations budget was looking good with targets met by June. People were enjoying the socialization at Bingo with attendance and revenues, close to \$50,000, at all-time highs. These dipped in March and April. The operational budget is the most challenging area and is now the focus. Danny Cajigas and the Deacons have been focused on raising funds and/or reducing expenses. The Development Committee will meet to see how to shore up the operational budget and plan for Phase 2 of the Capital Campaign in the first or second quarter of 2021. When we ‘share our story’, people are willing to give knowing where the money goes.

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Meeting Minutes

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Fr. Jaime said there is a program for both St Francis de Sales and Prince of Peace based on budget and expenses for the fiscal year. We want to increase the weekly collection and show where the money is spent as well as how we make ourselves present to the community, such as providing funds for students who are unable to pay for a Catholic education. The program will be talked about on the first three weekends in October. Danny Cajigas is working with the Archdiocese of Baltimore on a way for the \$120,000 loan to be forgiven. Jim W is working with others to put together a small list of items needed regarding the buildings and infrastructure for Phase 2 Capital expenses.

5-Year Plan: Jim W reminded everyone that the 5-Year Plan was a Strategic Plan for the Ministry Pillars over 5 years. The next step is to review the objectives for the coming year. Many ministry areas likely need to change their focus. All the ministry areas now need to reformulate their objectives for the coming year in light of the three priorities shared by Fr. Jaime and to submit their next-year objectives to Martine by the first week in December. Martine and Jim W will collate the objectives for all the ministry areas and distribute the full list by the first week in January for review by the Pastoral Council at the January 5th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mental Health Note Proposal: Sally read a description (see attached) of her proposal to write monthly pieces to share pandemic mental health and wellbeing promotion in our weekend bulletin. She also provided a bit about her 60 years as a practicing nurse as well as her recently published journal article on COVID-19 and Mental Health. Fr. Jaime thanked Sally and added that he needs to check with the Diocese to see if we can do this. Items in the bulletin may look like they come from the Diocese, and these pieces may look like they are advocating some level of medical care. Patrick acknowledged Fr. Jaime's concerns, though he noted from Sally's pieces written for the St Francis de Sales Jubilee that Sally knows how to write these pieces so they only provide information, not advice nor opinions. Patrick noted this idea is a true example of stewardship. Sally is responsible and would do a wonderful job.

Pastoral Council Meetings: Jim W opened the meeting to other thoughts from Council members. Patrick felt the Pastoral Council should keep meeting (virtually) to allow our Ministry Areas to continue meeting and functioning. As an example, the first outdoor Mass was held Sunday, Oct 4, 2020, at 5p on the church parking lot. Many people had not been coming indoors due to COVID-19 concerns. In attendance were 97 adults and 10-15 children, and half of the people had not been to Mass – had not received the Eucharist - in 6 months. The spirit was palpable. Another outdoor Mass is planned for Sunday, Oct 11, and then it will be reassessed. Patrick posed the questions of what needs are being missed and how can we reach out and meet the needs. On Friday, Oct 2, there was an outdoor rosary. On Saturday, Oct 3, there was a blessing of the animals. In November there will be adoration and All Souls Day Liturgies. Jim W said these were great points, and the same questions are being asked with stewardship – how to fill the needs.

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Meeting Minutes
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Mass of Remembrance: Fr. Jaime met with Larry Shannahan today who asked to add a Mass of Remembrance, which would be open to the community and not just for the Knights of Columbus. Fr. Jaime agreed, and it will be held Saturday, Nov 7, 2020, at 9a. As in the past, the names of those deceased this past year will be read. In addition, nurses, doctors, and first responders will be recognized as well as those who have died due to COVID-19. This will help bring closure for families. The most important thing can be to have a Mass said for those who have died. Patrick also shared that Deacon Chuck will lead a vespers service at Prince of Peace on Sunday, Nov 8, for those who have lost family or friends to COVID-19.

Need for Prayer: Deacon Jim asked everyone to pray for both parishes, Fr. Jaime, and the Deacons so they may be guided by the Holy Spirit for making decisions and to get through this time of pandemic with love, care, and compassion. Jim W said we have come a long way, though there is more to do. We can persevere, keep our faith, love each other, keep positivity, and navigate through this time. The work being done is amazing.

Pope Francis' Encyclical: Deacon Chuck announced that Pope Francis released his newest encyclical entitled *Fratelli Tutti* on Saturday, Oct 3, 2020. He said it is about universalism and encourages us to think outside our borders. It is 70 pages and can be found by googling 'Holy See'. Deacon Jim said it is also available as a paperback from the USCCB web site.

Meeting Adjourned by Jim W at 7:59pm

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Jaime led everyone in praying the Our Father and gave everyone his blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Uveges, Secretary