

**St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 8, 2020**

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**Attendees:**

Jim Wilson	X	Herman Bush	Kathy Batdorf	X	Madison Buddenbohn		
Liz Gonzalez	X	Nikki Gorski	X	Oscar Molina	X	Gloria Morales	X
Patrick Perkins	X	Sally Raphel	X	Isabel Sans		Cynthia Santiago	X
Gabriele Segletes	X	Diane Traube	X	Dan Zankowitz		Deacon Chuck Hoppe	X
Deacon Carlos Morales	X	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:** Oscar motioned to approve the February and August minutes; Diane seconded; all approved.

**Liturgical Calendar 2020/2021:**

Fr. Jaime reviewed the proposed Liturgical schedule for Christmas 2020 and Holy Week 2021 in light of the restrictions in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (see attachment). Patrick noted three corrections:

- 1) there will be a 1p Spanish Mass on Christmas Day,
- 2) Palm Sunday Masses will be the same as weekend Masses,
- 3) There will be a Spanish Good Friday Service at 7p in the Stone Chapel.

Fr. Jaime said the decision to have a procession will occur closer to Holy Week. Easter Vigil will occur at either St Francis de Sales or Prince of Peace depending on which parish has the highest RCIA count. Fr. Jaime will preside at the Easter Vigil to administer the sacraments for the Catechumens and Candidates. Nikki said currently there is one person in RCIA. Sally asked if there can be music. Fr. Jamie answered if the archdiocese allows music; otherwise there can be a cantor and organist.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Pastoral Council Retreat:** Given that the retreat in March 2020 needed to be canceled at the last minute, Jim W shared that the retreat will be skipped in 2020 and a retreat will be planned for the normal time next year.

**Pastoral Council Elections:** Voting for the officer positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Recording Secretary normally occurs at the first meeting after elections of new members. Given Pastoral Council meetings had been suspended and the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Fr. Jaime suggested, and the current officers agreed, to continue in their position for the remainder of this Council year.

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*5-Year Plan:* Jim W reminded everyone that the March 2020 retreat was to review and focus on the year-one objectives. At this time the ministry areas need to relook at their 5-Year Plan, determine what needs to change, and then present their new plan.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

***Development Committee:*** Jim W reminded everyone that when we last met, the Capital Campaign was nearing its goal of \$130,000. With the warm generosity of parishioners the goal was met! Virtual Masses due to the pandemic provided the opportunity to move forward with some projects with the approval of the priests and help from the staff: flooring in the main church, carpet in the Religious Education building, and a new compressor. With parishes shutdown, revenue from Mass collections and bingo income is down 8-10%. The Development Committee will be meeting next week to discuss the Capital Campaign and parish operations.

Oscar shared that the Knights of Columbus voted to assist the church with \$2,500. Grand Knight, Mike Walsh, will be talking with Danny Cajigas to determine the best way to allocate this gift. Sally recently published a journal article on COVID-19 and Mental Health. She suggested adding a blurb in the bulletin to help provide care and support for people during this pandemic.

***Parish Priorities:*** In light of the drop in parish revenue, Fr. Jaime outlined the priorities for the parish at this time.

- 1<sup>st</sup> priority – our mission – to evangelize via clergy preaching, providing the sacraments including Masses and funerals, and assisting with the needs of the poor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> priority – the ability to meet payroll, so there are people to support our mission. The PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) money was helpful, though it was for 3 months only.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> priority – continue with the ongoing maintenance including paying monthly bills and building upkeep

#### **MINISTRY REPORTS:**

***Faith Formation / Religious Education:*** Nikki reported that the programs had to shutdown, though 35 children attended a virtual Vacation Bible School. Fall programs are moving forward for elementary, middle, and high school students.

- Elementary – virtual, asynchronous; students will be given digital course materials
- Middle School – virtual with synchronous meetings
- High School – a mix of asynchronous and virtual for meetings
- Student orientation is at the end of September with classes beginning the end of September or early October.
- People are enrolling for Religious Education.

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- Per guidance from Harford County and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the programs will be evaluated at the end of November.
- Preschool – Fr. Jaime reported a delayed reopening for preschool; very few enrolled. The teachers have been let go for now, though Laura has chosen to stay in contact with some parents and children. Maybe preschool will reopen in January.

**Liturgy:** Patrick reported that meetings have been suspended, though the new motto is *“ingenuity, imagination, and adaptability”*.

- There have been some virtual services including communications with the Parish in Prayer.
- Holy Week was unique. There has been some music. Stations of the Cross had some unique presentations.
- Patrick thanked the priests, deacons, and staff, who worked continuously to provide services.
- Our St Francis de Sales people would put together a plan, and then they would receive the plan from the Archdiocese and would need to adapt the plan accordingly.
- The first Liturgy Committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 15, and each Tuesday after the Pastoral Council meetings to work with information shared at the Pastoral Council meeting.
- The new 5-Year Plan is a one-word plan: Survive.
- Patrick noted that *“with crisis comes opportunity”*. People of the parish have become more tech savvy and have found multiple ways to reach out to parishioners.

**Service:** Kathy reported that service groups do not normally meet, though all service groups met with Danny Cajigas and are providing Social Action activities.

- Sharing Table – is still being supported. The last date was August 22. More casseroles are needed. Less volunteers are needed to support due to ‘grab-n-go’ style vs serving.
- Our Daily Bread – casseroles were delivered each month except April. Total to date is 485 (Note: we collected an additional 57 on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>).
- Let’s Do Lunch – the Perkins family has been honored to prepare and deliver lunches each month.
- Outreach – has continued to provide groceries only via drive-up on Saturdays 9-10a and Thursdays 5:30-6:30p. Mike and Marcia Hickey are now leading Outreach. What is being considered for Thanksgiving? (Note: In the past, Deacon Jim has coordinated obtaining Turkey Vouchers from Wegmans. Normally, approximately 200 vouchers are distributed. Kathy has contacted Danny Cajigas to verify that he is working on this, which is needed by November 1<sup>st</sup>.)
- Welcome One Homeless Shelter – people are currently living in hotels, though they are due back on September 13. (Update: They are remaining in hotels indefinitely). St Francis de Sales donated \$1,000 in May for the needs of the shelter.
- Haiti – Gail Grady is the lead. She has created a FaceBook page and FlockNote group to support Haiti. St Francis de Sales partnered with Food for the poor, who doubled our \$3,000 in July. Additionally, they procured and delivered the food to our Sister Parish in August.

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- Blood Drive – only 3 open slots are left for the blood drive on Saturday, September 12.
- Funeral Lunch Committee – This service is not being provided at this time.

Patrick thanked Deacon Jim, who led Outreach for many years and developed this into a well running service.

**Parish Life:** Cynthia emailed 8 subgroups and received 4 responses.

- Bingo has been on hold.
- Girl Scouts have not met, though they will meet virtually in October. 50% have registered.
- Knights of Columbus Ladies have met normally virtually.
  - o In August the ladies met socially distanced in the church parking lot.
  - o In October they will do the Box of Joy by giving out a shoe-sized box and asking for them to be filled and returned with \$10 to cover the shipping cost.
  - o Saturday, September 12, 2020, 7:30-9:30a – The ladies will be participating in the Nun Run, to support the Little Sisters of the Poor, in a course marked out on the church grounds.
  - o The ladies are sponsoring a 300 Club Raffle. The winners will be announced on Oct 19, 2020. All proceeds go to the church.
  - o Oct 10, 2020 - The ladies will hold a Rosary for our World outside.
  - o Nov 2020 - The ladies are looking into providing a Spaghetti Dinner.
- Knights of Columbus have met via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Hangouts.
  - o The men have provided ushers for Masses and funerals.
  - o They are holding a virtual Silver Rose Life Program (Sept 20 – Oct 17 in Maryland).

Fr. Jaime reminded everyone that all activities need to be requested and passed by him first. The activity will be allowed or not per State and/or Archdiocese guidance. Fr. Jaime said the spaghetti dinner would not be allowed at this time.

**Meeting Adjourned** by Jim W at 8:10pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Uveges, Secretary