

St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2021

Attendees:

X Jim Wilson	X Kathy Batdorf	X Maddie Frick	X Liz Gonzalez
Nikki Gorski	Oscar Molina	X Gloria Morales	X Patrick Perkins
X Sally Raphael	Isabel Sans	Cynthia Santiago	X Gabriele Segletes
X Diane Traube	Dan Zankowitz	X Deacon Chuck Hoppe	X Deacon Carlos Morales
Deacon Jim Sullivan	X Fr. Jaime Garcia	X Martine Uveges	

The Meeting came to order at: 7:10pm

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

Approval of Minutes: Kathy motioned to approve the January minutes; Patrick seconded; all approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Service: Kathy provided a Service Report for 2020 with comparisons to 2019 (see report attached). Kathy thought it would be nice to share with parishioners the impact of their support during the challenges with COVID-19 and at a time when it was very much needed.

- *Outreach* – Total clients served, food bags provided, and clients financially supported are lower than those of 2019, though this was affected by converting to drive up support in March 2020 and the discontinuation of financial assistance.
- *Sharing Table* – There were 3 events in 2020 compared with 4 events in 2019. Even after converting to serving meals ‘to-go’, almost double the meals were provided in 2020.
- *Welcome One Homeless Shelter* – The number of meals provided were much lower, since people were moved to hotels. St Francis de Sales (SFds) donated \$1,000 in May for the needs of the shelter. Diane noted that the KofC Ladies offered to donate money. Fr. Jaime shared that the diocese said outreach should focus on providing food and not money.
- *Our Daily Bread* – Being in Baltimore City and with people in hotels, they have contracted for food. Recently casseroles have been requested for only every other month. Kathy intends to collect them monthly and store them to deliver every other month.
- *Let’s Do Lunch* – The Perkins family continues to prepare lunches each month. Since they cannot be delivered to the hotels, they are distributed at the pavilion in the park in Aberdeen.
- *Haiti* – Contributions continue with our sister parish in Haiti for the school lunch program.
- *Blood Drive* – There was 1 blood drive in 2020 compared with 2 blood drives in 2019 resulting in about half the donated units of blood.
- *Funeral Lunch Committee* – There was one funeral lunch in January 2020, and then this service was discontinued.
- There was no *Christmas Party for Outreach*, though Danny Cajigas and Liz organized virtual parties for 30 families, who were very appreciative.
- *Wednesday, February 3rd* – There will be another drive up to *drop off food* for the food pantry.

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Fr. Jamie confirmed with Kathy that she is filling out the activity form, including who is involved, so he can review and approve the activities and be able to track what occurs for future reference.

On behalf of the Council, Jim thanked the Service groups for all their accomplishments. Diane asked if the 2020 Service Report should be posted. Kathy had the report as an insert in the bulletin for two weeks. Liz has it on the parish web site with the bulletins. It could be posted on Facebook.

Liturgy: Patrick provided a Liturgy report (see attached Liturgy Committee Meeting Minutes, Letter to Liturgical Ministers):

- *Advent / Christmas review*
 - o There were many Masses at SFdS and Prince of Peace (POP) including a continuous live stream, which worked well. This should be continued next year.
 - o There were a variety of virtual events, some pre-recorded and some live, which were received well. These are likely to be continued next year.
- *Lent Schedule*
 - o Ash Wednesday Mass schedule at SFdS and POP was shared.
 - o Some Lenten events will be pre-recorded:
 - Theological discussions on Mondays
 - Rosary on Wednesdays
 - Stations of the Cross, though this will also be live on Fridays
- *Holy Week and Easter Schedule*
 - o The schedule for Holy Week and Easter will be planned Tuesday, Feb 9th, at the next joint Liturgical meeting of SFdS and POP.
- *Liturgical Ministers*
 - o At least 2 Eucharistic Ministers are needed at each Mass, and a Standby is scheduled, if needed.
 - o At least 3 (maybe 4) ushers are needed at each Mass.
 - o We are now accepting new Liturgical Ministers
 - o Liturgical Ministers are encouraged to help at any station as needed.
- *Corpus Christi Sunday (Year of the Eucharist) – June 6, 2021*
 - o Pope Francis has declared 2021 as the year of St Joseph. Fr. Jaime said we will be celebrating the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist on June 6, 2021.
 - o Faith Formation, Outreach, and all activities will be focusing on the Eucharist.
 - o It will open with the 10:30a, 1p, and outdoor Mass at 5p at SFdS. Deacon Chuck will lead a Eucharistic Procession from POP to SFdS arriving at 6:30p.
 - o There will be Praise and Worship, including the Latina and youth choirs, until midnight.
 - o Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday there will be a shortened form of 40 hours before the Eucharist at 7-9p each evening. The priest or deacon will preach, and confessions will be heard. Monday will be at SFdS, Tuesday at POP, and Wednesday at SFdS.

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5-Year Plan: Jim noted that all submitted their objectives, and he and Martine reviewed the whole 5-Year Plan. It is a great view of where we are going. Jim asked the Council members to read through the plan and provide feedback, questions, or thoughts in a couple weeks. The Ministry Leaders should read through the plan again. At the March 2nd meeting the main points can be discussed, and this will close out the planning phase. The 5-Year Plan can then be published to the web site and the parish.

Pastoral Council Officers – March Elections: Jim W reminded everyone that it was recently agreed that the council membership remain the same. In the March 2nd meeting elections will be held for the 3 officer positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Herman had stepped down from the Vice-Chair position, due to things moving more technical, and Jim announced he will not run for Chair, due to the heavy workload of his job. Jim said he will help in the transition. Jim asked everyone to give some prayerful thought to running for one of the officer positions.

Jim also noted that Martine figured out how the chat feature of Zoom could be used to nominate and *vote for officers*. Diane shared that her work Zoom account has a polling feature that would work well for this function, and the Council's next meeting could use her Zoom account if desired.

Diane asked what is being done to fill the *open positions*. Jim reminded everyone that they are appointed positions, no elections are needed, and Fr. Jaime asked everyone on the Council to make suggestions of whom he could consider appointing.

Small Group Discussions: Jim W commented that small group chats have not happened since we have been meeting virtually, and Jim, Nikki, and Martine met to discuss some possibilities. Jim described a proposal that 3-5 Council members meet once before the next Council meeting and discuss what's going well in their Ministry areas or around the parish. He noted that Martine put together a matrix of who could meet in these small group discussions.

Diane remembered that at the January meeting the suggestion was for discussions across functions and included staff, which was to replace the annual retreat. From her experiences at work, Diane suggested we offer to do some fun things to draw people back in. Fr. Jaime is protective of the staff and does not want the staff to do one more thing. Diane suggested that someone should be found to fill the Connections role, and Jim agreed. Gabriele asked if Sandy Gill would be replaced on the staff, and Fr. Jamie said her position has been eliminated and would be redesigned into a new job with new responsibilities when a pastorate is considered with SFdS and POP. Fr. Jaime said there had been a Ministry of Technology, and perhaps it should be brought back. They support the web site.

Jim said there is the potential to go broader, though it would be good to start small and see how it goes. Jim will send out the small group members for the Month of February asking the members to reach out to each other to find a time to meet, set up a Zoom call, and discuss challenges, what's going well, and what's not going so well. The small groups should bring back these thoughts to the Council in the March meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Donations for Boiler: Fr. Jaime thanked the two people whose donations enabled the boiler to be replaced quickly in two weeks.

Archdiocese Annual Appeal: Fr. Jaime explained that the goal amounts given to each parish take into consideration past performance on whether a) weekly collections are down, and b) the parish has not been able to meet previous goals. Since SFdS meets both criteria, our goal this year is lower than ever before. This also means that the percentage the parish receives back is also reduced. The archdiocese has implemented other cost reductions and reorganizations.

Harford County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine: Kathy is a volunteer with the Health Department for COVID and for tonight's meeting shared announcements placed in the bulletins for St. Margaret's and St. Ignatius hoping to get information out to those 65 years and older to register for the COVID-19 vaccine. Kathy wondered whether a similar announcement could be put in the SFdS and POP bulletins or shared with the Senior's Club. Fr. Jaime asked Kathy to contact Danny Cajigas on Monday, since he has a plan for getting the vaccine to people in the parish.

Diane noted that people over 65 do not use technology; they respond to a phone call or mail. Gloria suggested posting an announcement in the Narthex and/or giving a verbal announcement at Masses. Fr. Jaime noted that a driver's license is needed to register for the vaccine, and some in our parish are African, Indian, or Latino and have no documents. How can they register? Kathy said they do not need documents.

Fr. Jaime felt this was great news! It is important to get everyone vaccinated, so things can get back to normal sooner.

Clergy Meeting: Fr. Jaime reported that the Clergy Meeting was not held yesterday, February 1st; it will be Friday this week, February 5th.

Announcement: Patrick let everyone know that Jan Murdza of POP passed away this week. Jan was an incorporator of POP, was on the Pastoral Council the longest, and has been a key person to help POP work with SFdS. Jan's passing will leave a huge hole in all things POP. Patrick asked everyone to keep POP in our prayers.

Meeting Adjourned by Jim W at 8:35pm

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Jaime gave everyone his blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Uveges, Secretary