

In attendance by Zoom: Fr. Dan Riley, Lija Joseph, Kate Neal, Michelle Solomon, Margaret Roylance, Nick Frega, Monica Pacheco-Tougas, Peg Miller, Jim Allaire, Keirnan Conroy Klosek, Erica Johnson, Tom Morrison, Tammy Sakala Stossel, Bill Koffel, Kristina Preman

Minutes from 2/9/21 accepted.

Response re: question – What happens if we only have one priest on a given weekend? – Saying a “brisk Covid mass” will allow the time to move from church to church on the rare occasion that this would happen.

Fr. Dan's items:

- Current communication from RCAB suggests that there should be some semblance of normalcy by the fall.
 - Lija concurs that, by fall, many people will have been vaccinated and there will be very low risk for those individuals. From there, it is up to individuals and their comfort level.
- The pastoral priority from here on will be to make coming back to Mass as smooth as possible.
 - Discussion surrounding the fact that, in the past year, people have been trained to stay away from others. How do you ease folks back into group situations?
 - Lija described this as a fear of normal and, in the hospital setting, they are combating this feeling with a hospital campaign that offers assurance. “Safe with Us” will be their slogan in conjunction with a list of 5 things the facility is doing to keep you safe.
 - Follow up: Nick, using the language provided by RCAB will generate a list of the safety measures put in place by our collaborative.
 - Discussion surrounding parishioners not coming back; perhaps they have found alternative places to worship (e.g., St. Cecilia's online Mass), on-going health issues that continue to keep people from worshipping on site.
- Welcome Back Webinar recap viewed by Fr. Dan and various staff members resulted in an overall consensus that there are parts we would consider using or modifying to make our own.
 - The Event – people long for a grand re-opening but Covid won't provide that specific moment...there are various activities suggested that would move community in the same direction of a grand re-opening...votive candle, art project, tile project. Suggested timing of such an endeavor would be September (with built in flexibility with regard to the safety of community)
 - Letter writing: Fr. Dan is planning a heartfelt series of letters that draw parishioners in...let them know they were missed.
 - Suggestions from the council included procession modeled after Palm Sunday...”reclaiming our house”
 - Fr. Dan encourages members of council to watch the webinar on the link he provided and be open to discuss plans for what we might be interested in doing at the June 14th CPC meeting
- Religious Ed/Community
 - SH has been utilizing Project Nazareth – a family based faith formation program
 - OL has developed a program utilizing the publication Pflaum Gospel Weeklies and parish-produced webinars geared toward the family and living our faith in all environment
 - So much has been asked of parents and students in this past year
 - At OL, the May webinar will celebrate the parents – Council Members are encouraged to write a note or video or short message of thanks letting families know how proud we are of everyone who showed up and made their faith a priority.
- Nimbleness is required of us in the coming months – gradual, constant change as life gets back to “normal”
 - Singing is slowly coming back – Mass parts, acclamations, Gloria, Holy Holy
 - Continued use of mask and ventilation of the environment
 - Must be over communicated that people are warmly welcome to sing Mass parts.
 - Council members spoke of the emotional joy felt in participating in music during Mass
 - OL must revise Mass instructions with regard to the gradual reintroduction of singing

- SH – concerns expressed re: the positioning of the cantor – it was explained that safety issues with regard to Covid calls for the temporary placement of the Cantor.
 - Anne Marie and Erica will keep a nimble eye on the gradual change that can be made over time.
- Sacred Heart Ramp
 - Project is coming along
 - Chris Golden and staff will continue to monitor with regard to quality.
- Current Pastoral Plan
 - The current plan will be extended by one year...now expiring on June 30, 2023
 - Plan is a living document, utilize it but consider wise modifications to fit current circumstances.
 - Despite the challenges progress has been made, particularly in the area of community outreach.
 - Time to take out the plan and revisit our goals and objectives.
- Future Pastoral Plan (not started for another 18 months)
 - Choose our own facilitator – with a goal of generating energy and enthusiasm over goals
 - A successful plan is short, thoughtful, impactful
 - One page long, to be used as a reference tool – details in appendix
 - Smaller goals that are executable and measureable
 - Type of plan needed that can be brought out at every meeting and its utilization and progress would influence the agenda
- CPC Terms
 - Last June the decision was made to extend terms by one year due to Covid restrictions
 - Ann and Margaret's terms end this June (Margaret expressed a wish to continue as a volunteer working on the Vocation goal)
 - Some discussion surrounded an effort be made in nominating parishioners with young children to gain a fuller representation of the collaborative.
 - Further discussion around the size of the council would include staff members and then 6 parishioners from each parish.
 - Reminder that folks nominated who are not "picked" be drawn in in other ways.
 - Anticipated that nominations be collected and positions be filled by Pentecost (5/23)
- Open Forum
 - Comments surrounding the constant communication that maintained connection with the parishioners throughout the year. Great job by all with a special nod to the Ministry of Care who stayed in touch with those most isolated.
 - Outdoor Mass was discussed...noting that it has been well received at other churches. Possibly including the concept in the Welcome Back efforts.
 - Thanks given to Fr. Dan on behalf of the council for his joyful, positive attitude and leadership in these difficult times. Fr. Dan acknowledged his staff in response noting an atmosphere "like family trying to step up for each other""he looks forward to coming to work in this family friendly atmosphere."
 - Can we get back to some small gatherings for people craving for community, e.g., an outdoor coffee hour – given the certain level of comfort as people get vaccinated.
 - Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued to gain new members during this time. Suggested some kind of signal as we learn to re-gather in community and extend circle of friends (e.g. wear red to signal that you can talk to me.)
 - Over the next six months we need to meet people where they are
 - There will be new members joining us because of the virtual Mass.
 - We have to be welcoming...reaching out to neighbors and friends...extending an invitation.
- Recognize that people are suffering
 - Used to be "FOMO" (fear of missing out) now "FOGO" (fear of going out)
 - Remember to meet people where they are – be Christ like and understanding
 - Recognize there are many that have suffered losses – won't be undiluted joy – we must be careful in the way we craft our messaging.
- Recognizing Burdens
 - Burdens of young families – balancing work – school – referenced a Wall St. Journal article (emailed out) about how everyone is struggling in different ways

- Teens at home – be particularly aware of this real crisis- lots being asked of these students with very little being given back to them during this time.

Next Meeting: Implementation of the Welcome
Monday, June 14th at 7 pm by Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Ginny Arpino