

## Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

**September 16, 2021**

*Members in attendance: Fr. John Dillon, Anton Handono, Ron Hays, Chris King, Vincent Price, Leah Vincent, and Miguel Welanetz.*

*Others in attendance: Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan*

- The meeting was called to order at 8:09 pm.
- Council members in attendance began the meeting by reflecting on Chapter 7 of *Fratelli Tutti*. This included a discussion on how the death penalty is never a solution, but a failure of retribution.
- Leah Vincent moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 21. Miguel Welanetz seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

At the Parish Pastoral Council's first meeting following a summer break, Fr. John Dillon reported that he is working to reconstitute the parish's Youth and Young Adult ministries to provide a way for young people in these age groups to gather and form their faith.

Fr. John said he is working with Greg "Dobie" Moser, the executive director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Catholic Youth Organization for the Diocese of Cleveland (OH), to develop a plan for parish Youth Ministry. Fr. John has offered a position to a volunteer coordinator who will coordinate volunteers. He also intends to build on Vacation Bible Camp's successful model to involve and engage the teens.

Regarding the Young Adult Ministry, Fr. John is working with Molly Herrera, the program director of young adult and campus ministry for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, to develop a multi-parish model.

Fr. John also reported back to the council the archdiocese's response on whether parishioners could begin using alternative ways to donate to the parish, including the use of online applications, such as Paypal, Venmo and Zelle. In the reply from Adrienne Willich, executive director of parish and school financial operations for the archdiocese, she said the parish should have ways for Millennials to give to the parish. One suggestion is for the parish to increase the percentage of families who give online to FaithDirect; with only 15 percent of St. Francis parishioners giving online, there is still room to grow. She also suggested the parish begin publishing QR codes on written materials and surfaces around the parish. If a parishioner points his or her smartphone camera at the image, the phone can directly link its user to the parish's FaithDirect page encouraging a one-time or recurring donation.

In considering whether to use online apps, Willich said the parish should consider the following:

- Does the platform allow for proper segregation of duties among the parish staff?
- Does the platform protect the parish in the event of user complaints and errors?
- How do the credit card processing fees charged by the platform compare to the fees already paid to FaithDirect?

Several council members agreed that using QR codes would be a good way for people to give donations easily. "Obviously, we want the most convenient solution for everyone that doesn't put financial risk on the church," said council member Ron Hays.

In Fr. John's financial report, he stated that the parish will have an offertory campaign in the October or November timeframe. He also reported parish financial figures for the month of August, including:

- Parish income for August 2021: \$112,763.99
- Parish expenses for August 2021: \$101,360.31
- Income-expenses for August 2021: \$11,403.68
  
- Parish Income for August 2020: \$88,314.34
- Parish expenses for August 2020: \$149,295.99
- Income-expenses for August 2020: (\$60,981.65)
  
- Parish income YTD, actual: \$202,331.88
- Parish income YTD, actual 2020: \$178,092.75
- Parish income YTD, budget: \$215,920.96
  
- Parish expenses YTD, actual: \$184,343.29
- Parish expenses YTD, actual 2020: \$281,292.85
- Parish expenses YTD, budget: \$213,431.90

Fr. John and ministry leaders also gave the following reports:

**Religious Education:** *(Read by Fr. John on behalf of Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson).*

- Vacation Bible Camp was offered from July 19-23 in an in-person option and an at-home model. Sixty-three campers participated, as did 46 teen volunteers and 20 adult volunteers.
- The 2021-22 Religious Education program resumed in September, giving parents two options:
  - Homeschool model, with parents teaching their children at home with a textbook resources and support provided by the parish. Thirty-six children in grades kindergarten through eighth grade are registered.
  - Classroom model, with students attending in-person classes with modifications in place to comply with COVID safety protocols.
    - Elementary school-aged children are registered in Groups A and B and are attending class in-person on alternating weeks and completing a lesson at-home between each in-person class. There are two elementary school times: Sunday morning from 9:20 am-10:35 am (93 students registered) and Monday from 4:45 pm-6 pm (17 students registered).
    - Middle-school aged students attend classes weekly, with two middle school times offered. Thirty-two students are registered for Monday Middle School and 29 students are registered for Tuesday Middle School.

- Classes for children and youth with special needs continue to be offered on Zoom. Three students are currently registered.

**St. Jude Regional Catholic School:** *(Reported on by Leah Vincent).*

- Students started back to school and it has gone well. The same COVID safety protocols in place last year remain in place, except that students can unmask when they are outside if they stay socially distanced.
- Jean Donatelli is the new interim president of the school.
- On September 22, the school celebrated a Mass for Fr. Kaplan, who is on his way to sainthood.
- Enrollment remains high, with the school having benefitted from public schools being closed during the pandemic.

**Communications Ministry:** *(Reported on by Melissa Egan).*

- Completed the development of both a new parish logo and a parish logo for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the parish.
- Compiling a project plan for a video series commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish.
- Wrote stories for the August issue of *Our Parish Times*.
- Helping the Ad-Hoc Committee on Racism with the publication of eight “Justice Thoughts” that have run in the bulletin and in Flocknote from mid-July to early September.
- Continuing to help the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee promote the parish’s half-century birthday.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee:** *(Read by Fr. John, on behalf of Planning Committee Co-Chair Linda Foster).*

- The Parish Picnic will be held October 3 on the parish grounds. There will be promotional items given away, such as new car magnets, rubber balls and pens.
- Advertising for the parish’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary will include postcards sent to include special celebration dates; posting of random facts and pictures on social media; convening a group of people to help gather archived materials.

**In other business:**

- Fr. John reported that weekend Mass attendance is at 57 percent of our attendance from the same time last year.
- Fr. John said he would share a copy of the “Seven Year Journey of *Laudato Si*” with the council for their review. One way we can engage with *Laudato Si* is in changing out the florescent lights in the Parish Center with LED lights.
- Chris King asked what the status of a proposed Spanish Mass was. Fr. John said he recently asked Bishop Dorsonville about the possibility of St. Francis of Assisi Parish offering a Spanish Mass. Deacon Will and Lourdes Garcia are following up with a letter to him, as well.
- Fr. John said he would look at the results of a poll to see whether the council should change its meeting time and report back to the council on the results.

Fr. John adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.

