

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES: MAY 04, 2020

ST. George Catholic Church

Members of the Parish Council met at 6:00pm in the 2nd floor conference room, Scanlan Center, St. George, UT as well as via Skype due to the isolation guidelines re the Coronavirus pandemic.

Present in the Conference Room: Father Dave Bittmenn, Angie Gomez, Carole Drake, Don Drake, Ricardo Martinez, and Sheila Redman.

Present via Skype: Father Sebastien Sasa, Juan Carbajal, Mariana Lawrentz, Rita Cohen, Tim Kockler, and Jane Mruczek.

Father Dave opened the meeting with a prayer. Carole Drake made the motion to approve the April minutes; approval followed.

The **first** item on the agenda was Cinco de Mayo and whether or not the Knights of Columbus would be willing to consider a joint celebration. Tim said he would talk to the Knights at their meeting on Tuesday, May 05th and would let us know as soon as he could. Carole asked how much lead time we would need if Cinco is held separately since, as a separate event, it would be held on September 12. Rita mentioned that we would need a month and a half to get all the activities organized; the people responsible for those activities would have to be notified if we are having two separate events or if we are joining with the Knights' Oktoberfest which would indicate that we might have to scale back the Cinco activities. Father Dave pointed out that the decision to have one or two events has to be made by the end of August and really can't be made until we find out what the Knights decide.

The **next topic** of discussion was the invitation to bring in an outside speaker to address our congregation. Jane agreed with Don that we need to know what it is exactly that we expect from any speaker and that, right now, the topic of speakers has to be put on hold, primarily because of our financial situation. Jane also mentioned that, while invited speakers are good, we do have two marvelous priests who can present workshops and hold retreats.

Tim did advocate for bringing in speakers who are part of the new evangelization, the result of Vatican II. We can have retreats but people are falling away; we need to keep our members and grow God's church.

It was decided that we can bring up the topic of speakers again and that we could put together a subcommittee to set our focus, plan for an appropriate time, and assess our financial situation.

Juan suggested that, since we don't have the money now, we can decide once we open up. However, we can get a group together now to work on having a speaker and arranging a future date. Picking up Jane's comment on our priests, Juan mentioned that Father Sasa did an excellent job with Spanish workshops. Tim suggested having a separate fundraiser. Sheila, Angie, and Ricardo would head a subcommittee. Hopefully, we can get outside members for that committee. Tim will ask Kim Jones, Mary Vandervort, and Shelly Reynolds.

The **last topic** discussed was the COVID pandemic. Tim mentioned that the information in our parish newsletters is very helpful. Father Dave emailed the information to the diocese. The committee and the diocese agree on recommendations.

The diocesan regulation is that, now, we can have 20 people at Mass instead of only 10. When we get more guidance from the State, we can increase the number.

A discussion followed in an attempt to figure out who of our parishioners could attend the Mass. Suggestions were made: have people call the office to see if they can come; have people put their names in a basket or drop box (only one "vote") and draw names out for each particular Mass; drawn names will be called and assigned a Mass date; if the person cannot come, then that name is discarded into another basket and another name is called. This information could be put into the newsletter and on the website as well as be spread by word of mouth.

Father Sebastien suggested reminding people about the "streaming" Masses on facebook and youtube.

The topic of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was discussed. We still could not have more than 20 people in the church! It was suggested that we try it for one week with the following provisos:

- *We need someone there the entire time to keep the limit to 20 people.
- *We need people every hour to monitor that the hour is covered.
- *We need sign-ups.

Father Sebastien emphasized that there has to be one person in charge who would be there the entire time. Before this pandemic, we had a list of names but people didn't always show up. Cy Curran was in charge and there were times when he and Margaret stayed for hours because sign-ups didn't show. It was decided that Fr. Sebastien would contact Cy and that the two of them would work out a Game Plan to see if this would work on a limited basis.

The Thrift Store Fashion Show is scheduled for the first weekend in November.

Father Sebastien closed the meeting with a prayer.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 01, at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane H. Mruczek