

Parish of the Holy Eucharist
Holy Martyrs, Sacred Heart, St. Gregory, St. Jude
266 Foreside Road, Falmouth, ME 04105
Telephone: 207-847-6890 Email: POTHE@portlanddiocese.org

POTHE Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes: September 3, 2020 6-8 pm

TYPE OF MEETING	Pastoral Council Meeting
CHAIRPERSON	Sharon Leskanic
NOTE TAKER	Danielle Tracy
ATTENDEES	Tom Ancona, Amy Carman, Jonathan Fuller, Sharon Leskanic, Danielle Tracy, Deacon Dennis Popadak, Fr. Phil Tracy, Fr. Peter Kaseta (face time link) Absent: John Conroy, Arturo Juarez, Kristine Rogers, Sarah Doten

1. Welcome.
2. Gospel and Reflections
We read the Gospel of Matthew 18:15 - 20 and reflected in conversation.
3. Approval of Pastoral Council meeting minutes
Tom Ancona motioned to approve the June 2020 minutes as submitted, second by Jonathan Fuller, approved 8-0.
4. Deacon Dennis discussed the Feast Day of Saint Gregory (actually on Sept 3). The celebration will be at the parish picnic at Saint Gregory's this weekend. Deacon handed out Prayer cards for Saint Gregory the Great to all council members.
5. Updates from Fr. Phil
 - a. Georgette Dionne (Director of Faith Formation) has resigned for a job with the office at the Portland Diocese; another staffer Kim Palli is out on medical leave. The office is definitely short staffed. We are actively looking to fill the role of Director of Faith Formation. Deacon Dennis and Kim Lovett have taken on some of the duties in the parish at this time. There are many questions on how to fill this role. Faith Formation will be virtual instruction for through 2020; do we need a leader at each church? What are the qualifications for this hire? A search committee will be formed to review the candidates.
 - b. Father Phil, the staff, and volunteers are working hard to present a model of normalcy for the parish. He is proud of all the staff has done to deal with the changing rules, concerns, and all the live streaming efforts. They are continuing to discuss the role of church leaders and leadership teams at each location.
 - c. Our financial actual vs. goals look good. We met the Bishops Appeal goal, and the EFT (We Share) signups are going well.
 - d. The staff and volunteers are sanitizing the churches between masses. We have purchased sprayers for the disinfectant so it's now faster and easier to clean everything. This will give us more options to open up wider seating in the churches.

- e. **That Man is You** is resuming in person meetings Saturday mornings. They are following strict protocol for safety. If things go well, Father will consider other adult options for meetings.
- f. **Social Justice Committee** will be meeting 9/10/20. Father Peter will discuss options for things POTHE can do for the communities around us. Thinking out of the box for Thanksgiving and Christmas supports. Fr Peter Reports this:

As a follow-up to the pastoral council meeting's discussion regarding POTHE's Thanksgiving and Christmas program. The Social Justice Commission at its 9/10/20 meeting has gotten on board. Contact will be made to area food pantries, Catholic Charities, as well as the POTHE members who have customarily provided leadership to the holiday programs to elicit information regarding "how to do it" in light of Covid-19. The Social Justice commission will give consideration at 10/5 meeting.

6. Council Updates/Discussion

- a. **We will need to bring on 2-3 additional council members. Recommendations are with Fr Phil. Father will reach out to each candidate for consideration.**
- b. **Feature Parish councilor members in upcoming bulletins: 1 from each parish each week. Photo and short bios.**
- c. **Children in church, some are non-compliant with face mask on at all times.**
- d. **There is a request for some adult faith formation. It could be a speaker/program on the internet or our own version of a prayer group (zoom). We are looking for the church to direct us to one site so we can "gather" in a group together.**
- e. **We have received about 15% of the surveys back. We need to continue to update our addresses and church census information.**
- f. **The highlighted and jump linked Flock notes that come through the church are great. We are wondering if the bulletin can be summarized and highlighted at the beginning as well.**

For Council Member reflection and input:

- g. **How has the pandemic changed the church? Read Pope Francis' essay. We have been making phone calls but are that sufficient? Discussion on this and request for more.**
- h. **How can we, the Parish Council, be of service to the church? In the staff review of the leadership teams, should a council member be a part of the leadership team at each church?**
- i. **We continued the conversation on how to determine the number of masses among the 4 churches, should the time come that we are down to 2 priests. 8 masses would be ideal. Do all Saturday masses in POTHE need to be at 4 pm? Ask people.**
- j. **Consider mass times for Christmas. What could work best? Ask people.**
- k. **We discussed several books for gift distributions at Christmas: Quotes from Mother Teresa, and I Heard God Laugh by Mathew Kelley. Preference?**
- l. **Note: Council Member attendance was low tonight. This needs consideration.**

7. Closing Prayer

Next Meeting: October 1 @ 6pm

Holy Martyrs Church
266 Foreside Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

Sacred Heart Church
326 Main Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096

St. Gregory Church
24 North Raymond Rd
Gray, ME 04039

St. Jude Church
134 Main Street
Freeport, ME 04032