

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes  
May 19, 2020

The meeting started at 5:35pm and done remotely via Zoom.

**Present:** Father David Burgard, Father Kevin Roelant, Deacon Mike Stewart, Elliot Alfredson (Vice-Chair), Donna Banker, Fred Fedorowicz, Al Gallan, David Heilman, Rick Kidd, Roger Kidd (Chair), Robert McMillan

**Absent:** Salvatore Benisatto, Maria Liparoto, Gus Martyres

**Vision:** To Welcome. To Inspire. To Transform. To Serve.

**Mission Statement:** St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, a Catholic community of faith, proclaims Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, celebration of the sacraments, ongoing care for those in need, lifelong faith formation and stewardship of our time, talents and treasures.

**Opening Prayer/member prayer intention/reflection** Father David

Due to the stay at home mandate, this parish council meeting will be held digitally, and the agenda has been adjusted as needed to address the most critical topics, adjustments, and plans.

**Update from Father David**

Father David asked the council to keep updated on the diocese announcements and church postings to be informed and be able to assist with questions.

The office staff is still respecting the stay at home order but will continue to communicate, update, and assist.

Father addressed the 3 expiring council member seats and asked that we put this on hold until things are more stable. The three seats are those of Roger Kidd, Bob McMillan, and Maria Liparoto. Roger and Bob both agreed to stay on the council until further notice, and Father will speak to Maria and offer the option of staying on until the selection process can occur or ending her term at this time.

Father shared that Julie and he met with finance council last week via Zoom, and came to a decision to apply a temporary layoff/reduction in hours, which was received with respect and understanding through a personal conversation with each staff member affected. This will remain through mid-June at this time and will be re-evaluated. The church is also applying for a tax credit to help with the additional financial deficits at this time. He discussed the incoming donations and that they have been generous. He said that as far as expected income, we are not very far behind. Father discussed that some things that weren't imperative at this time have been put off until things are more stable. The diocese recognizes that all financial initiatives are on hold at this time, including CSA. At this time, there will be nothing until the fall at the very least.

Father David announced that St. Mary's/St. John's will not be receiving a replacement for Father Kevin at this time. We will be receiving the assistance of a seminarian deacon, Zaid Chabaan, to share the load over the next year. He will be ordained a deacon Friday and ordained a priest in May of 2021. He will be joining us in Monroe on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Father David spoke about living arrangements and he is still in discernment about this and will make sure that both churches will have a priest in residence.

Father David told the council that Father Phil will be moving to a new parish on August 1<sup>st</sup>. St. Michael will be receiving a new priest of the Palatine order.

Father David spoke about the changes that have affected each of us throughout this time. He spoke of the sufferings, but that they can be positive for us all.

Public liturgies resumed Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Father said that there were about 35 people at the mass at St. John's and about the same at St. Mary's. Father spoke of how Tony has taken the lead on assisting at mass to help guide and inform at the masses.

Father shared the mitigation expectations and that the staff is planning and refining the process for mass. Father David is creating a detailed overview of what to expect and what each person's responsibility will be. He explained that each church needs to approximate their capacity rate which will need to be flexible according to the number of people per family group. He discussed how the attendance rate will be monitored and facilitated, as well as how the masses will be officiated as we will have a reduction in priests to facilitate. Father David presented a proposed mass schedule for both St. John's and St. Mary's as well as considering the mass schedule at St. Michael's. The hope is that as we gather data and the hopeful changes down the road, potential changes can be made. St. Michael's will be having Sunday masses at adjusted times and frequencies, and Father David proposed the following schedule for St. Mary's and St. John's:

St. Michael's -8:00am and 11:00am Sunday mass

St. Mary's -Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 7:30am & 10:00am

St. John's -Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 9:00am & 11:30am

There will continue to be a Spanish mass on Sundays

Father explained that there is no easy way to do this, but based on the need for cleaning between mass, and the need to consider the priests.

Rick commented appreciation for the care and respect to the proposed schedule. Roger and Fred also agreed and offered thankfulness for Father David's care in this process.

Father shared that he has spoken to staff and music ministers and all are appreciative of the effort in this. At this time there will not be choirs at either church, but the music will be based in a more contemplative format that engaged singing.

Al asked about the use of a disinfectant fogger and Father David said that they are open to investigating any options. Roger shared that he has a quote request out and will share it with Father David, and Rick also said that he will share the information that he has about a similar service from Cintas.

Father addressed live streaming masses and he said that he would like to continue live-streaming 1 mass per Sunday, alternating churches, at this point.

Father David spoke of extending connections and communication to the people and various ways of doing this.

He shared that he has verified plans for drive-up confessions next Wednesday at the SMCC parking lot. He said that they will begin to provide in church confessions, but there are still things that need to be planned to adhere to recommended health mitigations. He also said that weddings, funerals, and communion to the sick are allowed at this time with all of the health guidelines being followed.

Encounter, Grow and Witness, is a resource for welcoming back people and how to get parishes moving again, and is found on the AOD website.

Father acknowledged that Deacon Mike celebrated a birthday last week and Father Kevin celebrated his birthday this past Sunday.

## **Member Comments/Input**

Fred added a vicariate and Christian Service update.

He shared that the vicariate is asking for budget proposals for the next year and expect the parish allocations will be decreased.

The vicariate has submitted another PEF grant to the arch-diocese and are awaiting the approval.

Christian service has been active and offering the GodWorks meals. He shared that the people receive meals at the door.

St. Vincent DePaul has been offering help to all in need and have been receiving requests for help.

Stephen's ministry has been active through this the pandemic.

We have about 16 parishioners touching base with parish members to check on their well-being through phone calls.

**Next PPC Meeting-** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 @ 5:30pm

**Closing Prayer-** Father David

Respectfully submitted by: Donna Banker, Recording Secretary