

NOTES FROM FEB 13 MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE: Barb Bauman, Joe Corona, Bill Crandall, Roger DeBell, Karen Drury, Patti Garrow, Fran Glanton, Molly Hickey, Jim Hopper, Cathy Kamp, Mark Kukuvka, Fr. Mike Merritt, Lisa Milano, Kerrie Mullen, Ned Sayegh, Pat Schichler, Carolyn Schlageter, Fr. Jim Schwartz, Patrick Sloan, Brian Weaver

Pastor's Report—Fr. Jim:

CMA :

- Both parishes have exceeded their CMA goals, Holy Spirit at 109% and St. Joseph's at 108% of goal;
- 50% of the overage is returned to the parishes

LENT:

- Ash Wednesday
- Soup Suppers – first week hosted by Joint Parish Council – support needed for setup, cleanup and shopping! (*Sign up sheet passed around and completed.*)
- Several adult formation series starting: Laudate Deum conversations in the Spirit.
- Lenten Mission in March with Fr. Richard Fragomeni including parish witness talks.
- Sister parish day of penance: March 27
- Please support CRS Rice Bowl, the international arm of the Catholic Church for feeding and empowering people in the poorest parts of the world

HOLY SPIRIT SANCTUARY:

A proposal is being developed by a liturgical architect at LaBella to:

- Move the far-right handrail to the ambo;
- To remove the “second altar” since it is not used for the celebration of the Eucharist, giving the altar where Mass is celebrated primacy of place in the sanctuary;
- Moving the tabernacle directly under the statue of the Risen Christ to make it more visible and central – a platform would be built to appropriately display the Body of Christ in the monstrance for Eucharistic Adoration;
- When there is a proposal and cost estimate from LaBella, it will be shared with the parish community.

Comments/Questions

- We need the railing now. Why can't it be moved now? Response: We need a comprehensive picture before moving the railing.
- Can the altar just be cut down to a smaller size? Response: It needs to be removed to give the altar where Mass is celebrated primary of place in the sanctuary.
- There's always been a second altar. Response: the space was designed this way to close off that one third of the church for a daily Mass chapel. Response: A wall was never built and, thanks be to God, the full nave is needed to seat everyone for weekend liturgies. Daily Mass has not been celebrated at the second altar since Covid and has not been needed in that way.

Synodal Church in Mission – Fr. Jim, Cathy

Fr. Jim and Cathy led off explaining that this portion of the meeting would be a follow-up to the November meeting where Council members had responded to the question: how can our parish and diocese can be more synodal? Each Council member was asked to respond. Responses fell into a few categories: Listening/Communication, Community-Building, and Engaging Families in Church.

This meeting, as a follow-up to the passion and energy around engaging families the question was posed for all to respond: What calls/motivates you and your family to come to Mass? What is your experience of the Mass?

Responses center around *the power of the Eucharist and God's desire for us to be at Mass, community, belonging, involvement/participation:*

- Families have to make Mass a priority but it isn't always easy.
- Participation, a sense of involvement, is very important, such as bringing up the gifts, singing, lectoring, etc.
- Mass is an anchor in our family's week – amidst many other unpredictable things, this is where we always are on Sundays and are always welcomed no matter what.
- The love I feel from these parishes is what keeps me coming back even when I feel judged and hurt by the Vatican.
- The sense of renewal, and worshipping with people from all walks of life; the energy that comes from working with RCIA.
- Parish staff can get caught up in many other things. Mass is where we can BE with people, worshipping God, listening to the Word, together in community.
- My family is unmotivated but that doesn't stop me. I love the sense of family, renewal, peace, and belonging.
- This is where God wants me to be, it's where I can be myself.
- The highpoint of my prayer life as a priest is in the Sunday Eucharist. To know yourselves enlivens my prayer life. Our Church is a big tent. We are called to love our neighbors, no exceptions. Being pastor is a humbling privilege – thank you for being part of the story of our faith community.
- Music brought my family to Church when I was a child and has been a motivator for my family. Today my passion is around seeing families come to Mass and supporting them in their faith.
- When my family was young, we went to our neighborhood Italian Church for the community and traditions. It's not easy as a single divorced person to come to Mass but here I have found a place where I belong, experiencing Christ at every Mass.
- Parishioners are family and friends, and our Worship team is trying to involve families every way we can.
- I love the Mass, I come for Jesus. I feel closer to Christ at Mass in the Eucharist, the Word, the People.
- God wants us at Mass so there must be a reason. The Eucharist connects us as a community.
- Eucharist is amazing. Reading the Bible brings more depth.

- I come wanting the Eucharist, to hear more, to learn more. There is a timelessness.
- Following the sudden death of a family member, I committed myself to going to Mass and continue to develop a sense of community by being involved.
- Standing in for Christ in the Mass – there are no words. Celebrating the Sacraments is the best part of being a priest. I want to be there with Jesus, where he is calling us to be.
- Can't do anything without Him. Through Mass, I more feel the presence of Jesus in daily life.
- It's one of the Commandments. And the music is very moving.
- Obligation, duty, family, community, continuity. I came to Church with my family and now my kids bring their family to meet us at Church.
- It's a highlight of the week. Involvement with the Knights and other volunteer work provides a sense of community.
- The pandemic taught me the power of the Body and Blood of Christ and that being a part of the community is so essential.

Fr. Jim concluded: Listening to others' faith stories is inspiring!

Open Forum

- Appreciated the parish Synod Zoom in January and now have a better understanding.
- We've had 3 successful family events: Advent (55 families); Epiphany; and Service Sunday (60 families). These are a way to include all families especially those who participate in the Summer Intensive program. Next: Palm Sunday Stations of the Cross at Holy Spirit.
- Such a large RCIA group is very encouraging (for the Easter Vigil, the RCIA team is preparing 6 adult catechumens for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist; 7 baptized candidates for Confirmation and Eucharist, 3 adult Confirmands, 1 youth baptism.)
- Fr. Jim was honored for his support of Catholic education with the Lighting the Fire for Catholic Education Award by the Catholic School Administrators Association of NY.

NEXT MEETING: April 9 at Holy Spirit