

Minutes
Christ Our Redeemer (COR) Pastoral Council (PC) Meeting
Sunday, June 12, 2021

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Vanderburg and began at 11:48 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All attendees observed proper distancing as prescribed by the Covid-19 precautionary measures. Father Bob opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present

Bob Gualtieri
Lisa Hall
Father Bob Johnson
Sharon Mikus
Rich Mountain
Kellie Parod
Steve Scheidt
AO Seeman
Mary Jane Sullivan
Barbara Swanson
Jim Thennes
Kathy Vanderburg
Patti Wolfrom

Absent

Ken Rodriguez

Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting held on Sunday, May 2, 2021:

Barbara Swanson made the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Rich Mountain. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Opening Remarks:

Father Bob announced that as of 4 June 2021, the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) for the current year saw a goal of \$77,833 which has been met with pledges in the amount of \$103,294 with \$73,361 already realized.

The St. Joseph Pavilion is complete and has been blessed by Bishop Wack. The pavilion has already seen quite a bit of use and the altar created by Eric Parod is complete and ready for use, as well.

There is a new rosary garden just beyond the Pavilion which was created by a parishioner as an Eagle Scout project.

On Sunday 6 June 2021, sixteen children celebrated their First Holy Communion. Father Bob expressed special thanks to Lisa Hall and Michele McCormick and reminded the Council that we all benefit from team efforts within the Parish.

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Father Bob baptized one baby on Saturday 11 June 2021 followed by another Baptism performed by Father Roy Marion.

Father Bob addressed the general provisions as they pertain to the newest letter from Bishop Wack in which he announced the suspension of the general dispensation from Mass obligation which was put in place last year in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. The dispensation will be lifted on Saturday 19 June 2021. The lengthy letter from the bishop addresses specific situations in which an individual would be justified in continuing to worship from home as well as his suggestions for the continuance of the observation of best practices to keep all parishioners safe and healthy.

Father announced that parishioners will continue to be encouraged to observe social distance and to wear masks but that masks are no longer required. Communion will continue to be offered under only one species for the time being. The presentation of the gifts will resume to include the offering of nonperishable goods in support of Niceville Catholic Outreach. The offeratory baskets will remain available in the narthex but collections at the pew will resume. Altar servers and Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers will also be back to pre-pandemic ministry with possible adjustments and re-training sessions as prescribed by the ministry chairpersons. The sign of peace participation will be left to the prudent discretion of each parishioner.

Kathy Vanderburg inquired as to how this updated Mass attendance information is being disseminated to the entirety of the Parish beyond bulletin announcements. AO Seeman stated that the Flocknote app is being used to send the information through emails.

Parish Calendar:

Thursday 24 June 2021 – Knights of Columbus Installation

Thursday 8 July 2021 – Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Installation

Unfinished Business:

Capital Campaign: No report

Ministry Liaison Reports:

Kellie Parod provided a report on the Bereavement, Single Parents, Council of Catholic Women, and Priscilla Circle ministries. The full report is attached below.

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New Business:

Ministry Fair:

Kathy Vanderburg announced that due to easing COVID-19 restrictions, the Parish is hopeful that a Ministry Fair can be held in September. Bob Gualtieri will be the point of contact and chairperson for this event. Kathy has volunteered to help Bob with the planning.

Bob Gualtieri opened discussion regarding the location of the fair noting that in previous years the event has been held in the parish hall and was minimally attended. A discussion regarding suggestions for possible ways to increase attendance/traffic at the event followed:

Lisa Hall stated that when the parish hall was used as the worship space, the ministry fair was held outside along the sidewalk and on the landing pad. Unfortunately, it was observed that even an outdoor event was, at times, craftily avoided by many. Lisa suggested the use of pew cards for individuals to provide their contact information and interest in the various ministries.

Rich Mountain proposed that pew cards be used in addition to a traditional ministry fair and added that perhaps moving the information/sign-up tables closer to the church, such as under the bell tower, might be a solution to growing foot traffic.

Kathy Vanderburg questioned whether there is ample space under the bell tower to hold the event. In response, Lisa Hall provided that perhaps discretion should be applied to determine what is and what is not 'ministry.' To which she added that a possible solution would be to hold separate events grouping ministries by type.

Bob Gualtieri was amenable to the idea of breaking the fair up by type and suggested that the events be advertised over a few weeks beforehand.

Mary Jane Sullivan recommended that each ministry be featured in the bulletin leading up to the ministry fair to provide awareness and relevant information to the members of the parish to increase interest.

Sharon Mikus agreed with Mary Jane that ministry features would be valuable and suggested that the features be combined with pew cards in an effort to gather interest and contact information without making anyone feel pressured to make immediate decisions or commitments.

Barbara Swanson suggested that the ministry event provide treats of some sort at the tables which may draw people to the table initially. Kathy Vanderburg added that the return of donuts and coffee after Mass can be combined here with the exception of the Vigil Mass.

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Patti Wolfrom proposed that each ministry consider holding some sort of raffle at their respective table for those individuals who provide contact information. The items can be procured through donations made by individuals currently involved in the respective ministry.

Kathy Vanderburg concluded that Bob Gualtieri will develop a preliminary plan for the event to be presented at the July Parish Council meeting ahead of Father Bob's vacation in August.

Father Bob asked Patti Wolfrom if she knew how Father Roy Marion solicited an abundance of interest in the Council of Catholic Women at Our Lady of Victory (OLV) to which Patti stated she did not know how the interest was garnered. Patti went on to share that there were more than 50 women in attendance when she and Joan Walker went to speak to the women about starting their own CCW and that she did know that Father Roy has already set up finance accounts for a CCW at OLV. Patti also shared that at least a dozen of the OLV women had attended the Diocesan Council Convention held recently at St. Rita Parish and that she feels that St. Rita may soon establish their own CCW.

Administration Report:

Welcome Committee:

AO Seeman stated that families who joined the parish over the time period between March of 2020 and January 2021 were recently formally welcomed and that a total of 42 families have been welcomed over the past year.

AO reported this weekend's Mass attendance as: 5:30 p.m. – 155, 7:30 a.m. – 117, and 10:30 a.m. – 247.

Finance Council:

Steve Scheidt reported that the offeratory for May saw a dip below budget by approximately \$3700 but that the Parish still realized a profit due to expenses actualizing at approximately \$4800 below projection.

Steve presented a new budget as the fiscal year will end next month. The new budget will be published with the July Council minutes pending approval for distribution by the Finance Council. As mentioned in previous reports, the Parish has weathered the slow in offeratory income due to the pandemic quite well in part due to the mortgage being paid in full and the frugal spending habits of the staff over the past year.

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Unfortunately, there will be an increased in property liability insurance due to recent hurricane activity and damage to parishes across the Diocese. The insurance policy is held by the Diocese therefore costs are shared amongst all the parishes.

Regardless, the projection is for the Parish to remain in a positive financial position.

Father Bob stated that with the return of the offering of gifts during Mass, there will be two collections: one for the general offeratory and one for the capital campaign. The hope, too, is that the new families to the Parish will become fully aware of the capital campaign and make pledges which will help mitigate the increase in building costs.

Bob Gualtieri asked Father to clarify that there will be traditional collections taken up at each Mass going forward to which Father replied in the affirmative and confirmed that there will be two collections each Mass.

Other Business:

Parish Council member seats:

Kathy Vanderburg addressed the challenges the Parish Council is currently facing regarding membership. As she is set to complete her term as president and Rich Mountain is ready to assume the position, the vacant seats must be addressed. In order to provide consistency within the Council, each year should see a turnover of 4 seats with each individual serving a 3-year term; this process has been interrupted due to early retreats from the Council.

To mitigate the current situation in which the Council is faced with two empty seats and to allow the Council recovery time to regain momentum of replacing 4 seats per year, Rich Mountain made a motion to recommend to Father Bob an amendment to the bylaws which would allow for current Council members to voluntarily extend their membership on the Council for an additional year. Bob Gualtieri seconded the motion, all members in attendance were in agreement and Father Bob accepted the recommendation.

Patti Wolfrom asked for clarification that earnest efforts would be made to appoint new members in 2021 to fill the current vacant seats as well as those scheduled to become vacant. The answer was in the affirmative.

Kathy Vanderburg provided that, originally, the bylaws stated that a general election would be held each year to fill the seats of retiring members however, no election has been held in the past four years. The bylaws were changed after a particularly rough round of elections to provide Father Bob with the authority to appoint Council members.

Rich Mountain agreed to oversee the volunteer and election process for this year as the incoming president.

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Ministry volunteers:

AO Seeman shared that Gretchen Erickson has stated that volunteers are greatly needed to support the reintroduction of the Donuts and Coffee ministry and to continue the new Mass Greeter ministry in the Parish, especially for the remainder of June and for July. Both ministries provide ample opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners.

Kathy Vanderburg stated that she will be the chairperson for the Mass Greeter ministry to which AO added that it is a simple ministry that goes a long way with just a smile, a 'good morning,' and handing the person a bulletin. Lisa Hall also added that if a greeter wanted to leave Mass just a bit early and be in the narthex to say goodbye and wish everyone a good week, etc. as they exit the Church, it adds a nice touch.

Barbara Swanson stated that she had been in contact with Gretchen and that she, Barbara, has agreed to cover the donut ministry for the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday 20 June 2021, but a ministry lead is still needed.

AO also mentioned that Gretchen has asked that the Parish Council members consider stepping in and helping with the various ministries as we continue to get back to speed.

Closing Thought:

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.” ~ John Holmes

Father Bob closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, 11 July 2021 due to the Independence Day holiday.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Mikus
21 June 2021

Attachment

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Attachment 1:

Ministry report from Kellie Parod

Bereavement:

No updates at this time

Single Parents:

No one is currently running this group.

CCW:

Current status of the ministry/membership (or how many people attend if you are holding meetings in person) Currently have approximately 50-75 members of varying levels of activity.

Do you have any future projects or activities/meetings We just participated in the West Central Deanery Convention where the Bishop presided and his brother, Fr. Neil, co presided and spoke to the affiliations. The conference was a big success and Patti Wolfrom did a fantastic job of planning and executing it. We have one more official meeting and then a brunch planned for June, which will be hosted by the American House. Meetings are being held regarding future activities of our affiliation.

Are there any areas you have any requests or need assistance with? Continued prayers

Priscilla Circle:

Current status of the ministry/membership (or how many people attend if you are holding meetings in person) We just finished a Lent book study where we met weekly in the mornings at HNJ playground. There were 10-15 women meeting every week. There haven't been any formal meetings due to covid and restricted number of people/children and restricted childcare. On May 15th at 10am we hosted the St. Joseph consecration, we had a great turn out of families and children, and father Bob did a great job leading us. We have started using the St Joseph pavilion for rosary meetings, our next is 6/22.

Do you have any future projects or activities/meetings We will be starting a summer book series meeting weekly starting June 22nd. We would love to host the BBQ this fall if at all possible and/or the Harvest dance, we have talked about a possible date of 10/16 to combine it into a BBQ dance. Fall we plan to restart formal monthly meetings if we can secure locations and childcare.

Are there any areas you have any requests or need assistance with? Help finding locations/using the pavilion for the summer book series that we are starting in June, the HNJ playground is currently closed. We have met in my yard for Rosary and we will meet there or at Karina's for the summer book series.