

St. Ignatius of Antioch Church  
Pastoral Council Meeting  
March 8, 2022

Meeting called to order: 6:16 PM

Council members present:

Will Avitabile, Father Robert, Catherine Vidaurri, Susannah Nelson, David Nelson, Steve Andreatta, Steven Rojek, Lucky Thammalangsy, Kaitie Thammalangsy,

Council members absent:

Reggia Desmond

Opening prayer – Will Avitabile

February 2022 Pastoral Council Minutes approved with corrections, motion by Steven Rojek.

Susannah shared her visits to both the Finance Council and Pastoral Staff meeting as well as gave us copies of the reports shared with each as liaison to both. Lucky showed us the moveable, adjustable and attractive work table purchased for information after Liturgies, complete with drawers for pens, forms, etc.

Susannah distributed copies of an 11 page summary compiled from 298 parishioner responses to the Diocesan Map Survey, credible for its 60% participation rate, well over the threshold for statistical significance. This summary was sent to the Oakland Diocese, which had issued the original survey to all parishes in the fall. Eight areas showing strength in overwhelming numbers were:

- **Peoples' recommendation of the parish and pastor to the local community**
- **High quality Mass experience: regular attendance, liturgy engagement, preaching, music**
- **Ease of access to parish information and transparency of finances**
- **Strong shared belief in core Catholic teachings, and commitment to personal prayer**
- **Social justice outreach and reciprocal, multicultural awareness**

Opportunities for future personal growth revealed a need to develop faith sharing with non-parishioners, and as well as to avail themselves of retreats and pastoral counseling which are available. Responders also indicated openness to adult faith formation programs, as well as Bible study and faith sharing groups. There was also strong awareness of need to serve the local homeless and food-insecure population in our city, and to collaborate with other Christian and non-Christian communities in these efforts. Aware of the shortage of priests, parishioners also support the possibility of lay pastoral associates and parish administrators.

Susannah also submitted the MAP data report to the diocese as requested; she also shared the concern regarding online and paper surveys not matching up; online questions branched off in one direction or another depending upon the answer previously given. This was due to "conditional logic" built into the online survey, the diocesan representative answered without explanation. An explanation was given by Father D'Anjou and Rick Medieros, co-leaders of the MAP Project. Susannah prepared a separate two page summary of the data to be shared with the parish community on Tuesday, March 15th through Flocknote.

For several months, Father Robert made announcements to gain support for Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality, and to invite the parish community to participate. This synod is an historical first. Three listening sessions were scheduled in the sanctuary, three morning and three evening session as well as the option of "Zoom." Reggie Desmond took notes, for each of the sessions, which were used by Susannah in preparing the report for the diocese as well as for our parishioners. Pope Francis requested that the consultation be extended to our ecumenical friends and requested the ten questions be shared with them. Father Robert and Susannah were able to meet with a both a local rabbi and a hospital chaplain as well as the Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County.

Bishop Barber has called the clergy of the Diocese together for a meeting on March to share how the MAP Task Force has used the information from the survey to begin making decisions regarding the future of the diocese, the merger/consolidation of parishes and schools as well as the deployment of clergy.

Addressing the state of the parish, Father Robert invited Council Members to see the desk/table Lucky had found at Home Depot to be a point of contact on the gathering plaza after weekend Liturgies for those seeking information regarding how to register, how to schedule a baptism, etc. The St. Joseph Festival Dinner is still on the calendar, with flooring be completed within the week, and fire department permit signed off soon. Father Robert shared that he has not been able to hire a Maintenance Facilities person to succeed Rich Confetti. In addition, he also shared that the timing for hiring an organist/music director has been problematic as contracts normally open in the Spring in time for hiring and beginning ministry by the late summer/early Fall. The planning for the Liturgies of Lent, Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter is complete. The Morning Prayer liturgies of Triduum have been scheduled and will be presided by three women of the parish who will also give reflections on each of the Three Days. He also shared that the Free Will Offering for Ukraine Relief after each of our liturgies brought in over \$5,000 last weekend.

Fr. Robert shared that there is an issue of water condensation forming on the glue-lam beams in the sanctuary and that water dripping from the beams has been found on the floor as well as on the upholstery of the pews. This will need to be dealt with immediately to prevent any damage. Rick Cross is creating the plan for the landscaping at the back of the parish hall and volunteers will be invited to help with the landscaping. Jeff Biles has been hired to once again care for the landscaping of parish property, including the Rectory. The New Parishioner Brunch has been scheduled in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m., with Kaitie and Steve offering to provide prayer for next meeting in late April, postponed because of Holy Week.

Next Meeting – **April 26, 2022**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Avitabile Home** (*birthday dinner for Father Robert*)

**Opening Prayer --**

**Closing Prayer –**

## REPORT TO THE PASTORAL COUNCIL – MARCH 8, 2022 – by SUSANNAH NELSON

### *Liaison to Pastoral Staff Meeting – March 3, 2022*

- It was agreed that a report from me regarding updates on the implementation of the goals from the Parish Survey administered by the Pastoral Council in March 2021 was no longer needed as an agenda item unless new information needed to be shared.
- Other agenda items discussed at the meetings:
  - Diocesan MAP Survey
    - The results of the survey were sent to the parishes on February 4.
    - Two Zoom presentations were provided by CLI to assist with accessing and interpreting the survey results. Susannah and Fr. Robert attended the first session, and Susannah attended the second.
    - A meeting was held on February 16 with Fr. Robert and those in leadership in the parish (Pastoral Council members, Finance Council members, Pastoral Staff members, and members of various parish ministries) to review the data from the survey results. It was facilitated by Susannah. All those invited to this meeting were also provided access to the CLI portal to view the survey data results. Copies of the Diocesan Survey Report Form were given to those who attended, and their feedback was shared both verbally and in writing on the forms.
    - Based on the feedback from the February 16 meeting, as well as the survey data, Susannah completed the Summary Report to the diocese and submitted it to Teresa Pena on February 24. Teresa acknowledged receiving it with a thank-you email.
    - Fr. Robert was informed by the diocese that there will be a meeting at the diocese on March 17 for all priests regarding the decisions that will be made by that time regarding which churches and schools will remain open, which ones will close, and which ones will be merged. Only priests may attend.
    - Susannah will compose a report for the SI community based on the Diocesan Summary Report for publication in the parish newsletter and on FlockNotes. She will also address the parish community at all weekend masses on a date to be determined in March to encourage them to read the report and to provide a few brief highlights.
- The Synod:
  - The Synod dialogue sessions are completed and were successful. In addition to the six sessions held in the church, two Zoom sessions were also held. Steve also held a discussion with the confirmation students on several of the Synod questions.
  - Brian McCoy assisted with technical needs and hosted one of the six in-person sessions; Dave Nelson hosted one of the Zoom sessions; and Reggie Desmond was the recorder at each of the six sessions.
  - One of the themes suggested by the Vatican is Ecumenism. To engage with that theme, Fr. Robert and Susannah have conducted three interviews with religious leaders of other faith traditions – Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan of Jewish Family and Community Services on January 21; Pastor Will McGarvey of Community Presbyterian Church and president of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

- on February 2; and Lisa Sargent, chaplain at Kaiser Medical Center, on February 16. The key dialogue points from those meetings will be included in the Synod reports.
- A report on the Synod process at each parish is required by the diocese by March 21. Susannah is working on this report.
  - Expansion Project Update:
    - The fire alarm system that was installed in the new construction space is not the same as the one that is in the blueprints. The fire department cannot sign off on the inspection until the blueprints are amended to show the correct fire system. The parish is waiting for the revised blueprints to be completed. The building cannot be used until the fire department signs off on the inspection, and after that the final inspection will be by the city planner.
    - The installation of new flooring will take place the week of March 7. The bottom of all doors are being shaved to accommodate the new flooring. It will be carpet squares that can be replaced as needed.
  - Director of Music Ministry Update:
    - Rosie and Aaron are assisting the parish as guest organists as their schedules permit.
    - A potential new candidate is Karen Hustings-Flagell, formerly the organist at Presbyterian Community Church in Pittsburg.
  - Update on new Facilities Manager:
    - Rich Confetti is retiring on March 18. No new manager has yet been hired.

***Liaison to Finance Council Meeting – February 15, 2022***

- The final payment was made to Oliver for the expansion project: \$130, 862.
- The Sunday plate collection average is higher than last year.
- The parish is considering changing the grounds maintenance company.