

SJCC Parish Pastoral Meeting Minutes October 6, 2021

Opening Prayer was led by Maria. Open Forum discussion surrounded getting the word out about our meetings. It was suggested to announce it at Mass two Sundays and one Sunday before each meeting.

Mission Council: The first Mission Council meeting was held on September 6, 2021. They discussed getting the commission meetings up and running. The Parish Pastoral Plan has not begun being implemented as everything is still fluid as the pieces fall into place. A PPC representative will attend these meetings so the PPC can be kept informed. At their next meeting, each group (Evangelization, Liturgy, and Mission Support) will report out their progress thus far.

Commissions: Tony attended the first Mission Support commission meeting, where Tom White, chairperson, spoke about the new structure and how it works. Progress was made during the meeting, for example, the St. Vincent de Paul coat drive and the Knights of Columbus coat drive will be combined. The Evangelization commission is still being formed. The Chair is working on meeting with all the ministries that fall under them, and still have some to speak with.

Parish Pastoral Plan: Discussion shifted to the Parish Pastoral Plan and whether we will need to update it. It has been reported that the Plan is viewed as a top-down plan by the ministries, and many do not even know what is in it. The ministries want and should have some say in the objectives and action steps. We discussed many ways we could do this, but it was decided to ask the ministries to provide at least two of their own action steps and ask them to consider how they're connected to the rest of the parish and how they are involving more of the parish in the development of those steps. It was determined to ask the Mission Council members to take the Plan to the ministries, collect the action steps for the objectives the ministry falls under, and to collect the progress towards the completion of the action steps. Each Commission Chair and corresponding staff member will then report out the progress of the action steps to the Mission Council.

Sub-Committee: Terry walked us through the formational sub-committee's second progress report. He began his report by reviewing the task of the sub-committee, which is to review the current and potentials of our faith formation program, and then began discussing work that has been done since the last progress report was provided on August 24, 2021, to leadership. Further work has been done to investigate alternative curriculum, speak with additional experienced individuals in the community, and research additional age groups' formational resources. The sub-committee identified their end goal as a model Catholic family, which still needs to be defined. The next steps for the sub-committee are to meet with the AOB and to take everything researched thus far and funnel it into their recommendations to Fr. John.

Forming Intentional Disciples: Fr. John led our discussion. We discussed that you need a personal relationship with God to understand missionary discipleship, and that formation must occur in that order. Most exiting the Church become Protestant or leave organized religion altogether. We have a lot of opportunity to form our average parishioner in the pew but must approach it pastorally. We will prepare to discuss chapters 3-5 at our next meeting.

State of the Union: During our new “State of the Union” portion of the meeting, PPC members provided insight to things they are hearing from parishioners. It was brought up that some want the names of the sick or dead announced again at Mass during the intercessions. Fr. John explained that nobody on staff is managing this right now, and that the lists can be viewed on the website. The liturgical music was brought up as an important part of the liturgy and that everyone should feel able to participate. Some of the hymn choices lately have felt dry. Fr. John shared that they are actively searching for the new music director. Pedro received accolades for doing a wonderful job with the Theology on Tap for young adults last month. Some parishioners feel the “call to missionary discipleship” is confusing and difficult to embrace, and not everyone is on board with this push. We have opportunity to approach this differently. Confusion about the latest liturgical changes is present, and it was asked if we could explain those changes to the parish. Fr. John announced that we are looking to change out the wooden tabernacle for the metal one that was once used at the Eldersburg church. The Archdiocese will need to approve this change to the space. Fr. John rounded out the meeting by announcing some staffing changes.

The next PPC meeting will be on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 7pm in the Tonry Room. Margaret will provide the prayer and Joselle will provide the snack.

Attendance: Bob Geldmacher, Maria Klicpera, Gwen Lilly, Terry Morse, Chris Patrick, Margaret Patrick, Joselle Ruddle, Rachel Wandishin, Fr. John Worgul, and guest Tony Gioio.