

SJCC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2020

The meeting opened with prayer, led by Bob Bastress, followed by faith sharing.

Father John updated the group on Staff changes: The Director of Mission (Bruce Baumgarten) and Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music (Lyle Peters) positions have been cut due to funding shortages. Sandy Ruane will also be leaving by Nov 13. She has managed the front reception desk. Karen O'Connor will be filling in, but we are in need of volunteers. These changes will help to meet the goal of reducing staff expenses by \$100K. There were concerns brought up around who would then be the staff member that would represent certain areas of commissions/missions. Fr. John will be taking on some of Bruce's previous responsibilities, and Fr. Armando will help with Liturgy. There is a committee working toward finding a part time music director. There are also opportunities where Fr. John used to have responsibility, prior to becoming Pastor, that will need representation. Until we can recover from COVID and the financial crisis it has created, we will have to work with who is available and/or willing to volunteer.

A discussion was initiated by Fr. John around the definition of Vibrant Liturgy. What does that look like? Many shared their own opinions around what makes a Liturgy vibrant. Many referred to the music as setting the tone around vibrancy. Some other descriptions were: Soulful, energetic, joyous, light, inspiring, and connectivity. Another point that was made, is how each individual celebrates the Mass. Anyone can attend Mass, but are they actually present, and celebrating it in a genuine way? The goal is to consistently have a vibrant liturgy, such that when people walk into St. Joe's, they'll know that it's amazing and awesome. The idea of worship is a total sensory experience; there are many things to consider when it comes to creating complete vibrancy.

The commission chairs then shared updates, with a focus on ways that the pandemic may have changed how they were used to doing things, and if this has created efficiency where they otherwise would not have realized it could exist. Overall, each commission expressed that meetings were possible, and held when necessary. Zoom was used when needed. The general consensus is that COVID has created a fluid environment in which things are always changing and being able to work amidst this is key.

The Subcommittee on Commissions presented their draft document on guidelines regarding the commissions, and the final document on restructuring and renaming the Commissions. The final restructuring and renaming document received unanimous approval from the entire PPC, so this will be formally submitted to Fr. John with a recommendation for adoption. It was suggested however that each commission chair take the guidelines document back to their respective commissions for review, and give them an opportunity to voice concerns around the changing guidelines and expectations. Any commentary will be brought to the December meeting.

Missionary Discipleship was discussed in great detail at the October meeting. We are all called to be Disciples of Christ, and achieving this comes in many forms. Fr. John is excited about integrating the staff and the PPC into making this successful. Some thoughts around initiating this process were: a homily series and PPC members attending commission meetings and sharing the presentation that was given from the October meeting. This needs to be more widely known and understood across the congregation. Opportunities for participation would lead to greater success in forming missionary disciples. This topic will be an ongoing discussion.

Pastors Report: The appeal has a 3 pronged approach: Save by downsizing (we have done this), make an actual appeal to the congregation, and use of the interest on the endowment. The appeal to the congregation has resulted in \$101K being raised thus far. Thank you to all! COVID is becoming a closer concern for the parish more recently. Fr. John was recently required to quarantine, and now Deacon Vito, both due to exposure. Some have voiced concerns around face shields and their effectiveness. Due to the large number of concerns brought up over face shields, it will be mandated going forward that unless it's necessary for medical reasons, a face mask is to be worn. The radio station survey is being conducted and is necessary for decisions that will be made regarding its future. Next month's meeting will be held via Zoom to err on the side of caution.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Attendance: Fr. John Worgul, Terry Morse, Tony Gioio, Joselle Ruddle, Sue Wilson, Sharon Borcharding, Chris Patrick, Rachel Wandishin, John Pavlick, Laura Bird, Mark Steinbrunner, Bob Bastress, Karen Spivey, Elaine McClearn, Gwen Lily, Robert Muhl,