

SJCC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2021

The meeting opened with prayer, led by Terry Morse, followed by some faith sharing.

Each Commission chair reported updates regarding their respective commissions. These updates are summarized below.

Liturgy Commission: In spite of all the challenges COVID brought, the Liturgy still remained a constant at SJCC. Daily Mass was still able to be celebrated via live stream, as well as Sunday Masses. 4 new members were welcomed onto the commission over the past year; however they also lost 2 members. 7 of the 10 ministries were still able to be active over the course of the past fiscal year. Fr. Armando will be joining the group in December.

Evangelization Commission: There was not much that this group was able to do over the past year given the pandemic, however recently, the greeters have become active at church again. They have shrunk down to 4 members, potentially becoming just 3. They are actively recruiting for greeters. They were able to secure a booth at the Sykesville carnival this year as well. Every night from 6-10 there will be some members of SJCC evangelizing at the carnival.

Facilities Commission: There was actually a lot that was accomplished this year, with a majority of the credit going to Tom Schwartz. He and his staff did an amazing job maintaining cleanliness week over week. At the Sykesville church the driveway fence has been replaced, there is a new sidewalk, new roof and gutters on the south side of the building, and a new boiler. At the Eldersburg church the painting refresh was completed, Stations of the Cross were rearranged, the blessed statues moved, new ceiling fans installed, and preparations to fix the flat roof seams over the chapel are underway. We are waiting on approval for the stained glass windows. Lastly there is an Eagle Scout project scheduled for June 19. They will replace the shingles on the walkway roof at the Sykesville church. In personnel news: Elsworth Jones has left the Commission since he moved. He helped to write the emergency response plan (still waiting on approval from the AOB). Ray Renehan has also stepped down for safety reasons due to COVID.

Implementation Team: a brief summary/history of the Implementation team was presented for the new PPC members. It was then determined that the PPC will ultimately have to make a decision on how to handle the implementation team. With the proposed Mission Council; the Implementation Team may be absorbed into this council. More to come.

Finance Commission: The financial staff has put together the proposed budget for 2022, which includes an anticipated deficit of \$255K. This includes \$159K for capital expenses, funded via the jubilee fund, \$9K for the Sykesville church, and the remaining from offertory and expense reductions. There was a recommendation to accept the proposed budget, since it is known that over the last few years, projected losses had not materialized. By being conservative on the income side, and aggressive on the expense side, there is a strong sense that we will be able to “live within our means.” Some questions were brought up regarding religious ed. The (new) Director of Evangelization will be looking into programs from youth to adult for faith formation. This person will play a large role in determining where these relevant programs will go over the coming year. Additionally, there was mention of hiring a full time youth minister, as well as the pending music director position. All of these positions have been taken into consideration regarding the presented budget. An honorable mention regarding the offertory / monetary contributions from the SJCC community was offered: they have remained consistent over the past several years, regardless of the pandemic. Also, there was a huge positive response to Fr. John’s plea last September. Thanks to all.

The motion to recommend the proposed budget to the Pastor was passed.

We welcomed 3 brand new at large members to the PPC: Maria Klicpera, Margaret Patrick, Bob Geldmacher. 2 former PPC members were discerned for a second (3 year) term: Joselle Ruddle and Terry Morse. There are two returning at large members: Rachel Wandishin and Mark Steinbrunner. There will be a meeting in July to discern the PPC Executive Team.

There was a brief update from the staffing subcommittee of the PPC around further research and findings discussing faith formation. They had a meeting with April and Angie; talked about vibrant programs that they currently have. Goal is to provide Fr. John w/ plans that present a lifelong approach to faith formation – with the end goal of developing missionary discipleship throughout our community. As part of faith formation there should be that discipleship influence and we want to find ways to grab hold of and keep everyone throughout their lives. Faith formation is a lifelong activity and we want to ensure that it’s sustained.

Pastors Report: There are 2 groups that are retiring from the PPC: the leaders of commissions, and the at large members. Fr. John’s hope is that each of them will be very active in the leadership of the mission council or the missions underneath that. Thanks to these commissions leaders: Sue Wilson, John Pavlick, Robert Muhl, Elaine McClearn, and Bob Bastriss. As well as the retiring PPC members: Laura Bird, Josh Thiem, Sharon Borcharding, Leigh Ann Gagnon, and Tony Gioio (who will be switching over to the Mission Council side). Next up – Fr. John will meet with various leaders of different areas. Looking for leaders to stand out / come forward. Wants a sense of unity and to know that each ministry knows and understands what we’re all about: Missionary Discipleship. Hopefully by September we will have everything in place and can hit the ground running (especially now that the dispensation has been lifted). Currently Fr. John’s wife, Kathy, is interviewing various people in church around how different people are living out their discipleship in the church. Hoping it will create inspiration. It’s evangelistic and informative. Thank you to everyone for all the hard work – especially through this past difficult year. Special thanks to Karen Spivey for all the behind the scenes work. A lot of hard work was done this year.

Attendance: Fr. John Worgul, Terry Morse, Tony Gioio, Joselle Ruddle, Sue Wilson, Karen Spivey, Gwen Lily, Chris Patrick, Rachel Wandishin, Laura Bird, Bob Bastress, Mark Steinbrunner, Elaine McClearn, Robert Muhl, John Pavlick, Maria Klicpera, Margaret Patrick, Bob Geldmacher, and guest Mary Ellen Will