

SJCC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – September 2, 2020

The meeting opened with prayer, led by Sue Wilson.

Commission Updates: Robert Muhl shared updates for the Facilities Commission. There has been work done at the Sykesville church: the basement bathroom has been finished (the floor has been painted, drywall added, new doors, and improved lighting). The church has been used every Sunday (since reopening) for mass/services. There has been a wider walkway of pavers added to the path to the basement, as well as a fence, due to the drop off from the driveway. This was completed by a group of volunteers. Fr. John commented on how lovely it all looks. There is currently a potential need for repair as a roof leak was discovered with the recent rain. The solution for this is being discussed. Fr. John also recently signed off on the Parish Emergency Response Plan and submitted it to the Archdiocese. We are awaiting their response.

Subcommittee on Commissions: The members are Bob Bastress, Bruce Baumgarten, Sharon Borcharding, Sue Wilson, Tony Gioio, and Terry Morse. At their past meeting they determined that the structure of the commissions does not need any adjustment, however, it would be beneficial to create a document, or guide that would more clearly outline which committees report to respective commissions. As well as better communication around which one task each committee might be working on, so to better utilize these committees, as well as ensure there is a clear goal around work that is done. This would also assist with groups that might feel disconnected altogether. It would provide a direct link for them around who they can go to for assistance, as well as action steps for what they do and/or focus on. When discussing the Liturgy commission, the Art & Environment committee was brought up. Clarification was given around how/why this committee falls under Liturgy, & it was determined that because most decorating done at the church is intended to benefit the mass, it makes sense that it should fall under Liturgy (& not Facilities). Evangelization had a few concerns voiced as there are many committees that fall under this commission. Due to past utilization of some of these members, confusion arose around what committee belonged where. I.E. the Christ life series used to be considered part of Evangelization but might be CFC. Several other suggestions were made. The sub committee will be taking these suggestions to their next meeting and further determining what the next step might be. Service Justice and Life is still without a chair. Fr. John mentioned the variety of committees that fall under this commission. He praised the amount of work that many of these groups do, however they need a leader. Overall, there are many volunteers. There just needs to be a clearer path for growth in these areas, and not just constant work. There was a suggestion that Facilities create a subcommittee for safety and security; and reach out for volunteers from law enforcement & the medical field. There was also a suggestion to create a “Fellowship Commission” for social events at the parish, with a focus on all the outside groups that benefit SJCC. This commission could include groups like St. Vincent DePaul, that naturally have a large outreach beyond SJCC. Knights of Columbus could help. It was suggested that a staff member assist / oversee about the social event side of things. (It was mentioned that in the past, the PPC oversaw social events. There were several votes in support of this idea). This was another topic that will be further discussed at the subcommittee meeting.

Bob Bastress received a lot of positive feedback from Dr. Yueng regarding where SJCC stands with their progress on the Parish Plan. Being 1 of 9 of a pastorate pilot cohort; SJCC is leading the way. A great example was our seamless transitioning of Pastors (amid a pandemic).

Pastors Report: Father John is extremely excited about his new role; “I just love my job”. He is looking forward to where SJCC is heading. Everyone on staff is embracing an “ownership mentality” and it makes a huge difference. One recent concern has been the limited attendance at all masses. There are a lot of unknowns surrounding why more parishioners are not coming back. However, in the interest of bringing us altogether, 24-hour adoration was a suggestion, and will be upcoming. The Rosary could be a uniting activity that would help to remind us that the Eucharist is the source of our lives. Also returning is Praise and Prayer on the 3rd Friday evening of each month (formerly the Festival of Praise). Madeline Jones is still with us and has 2 responsibilities: overseeing small groups and continuing her Cross Talk program. She will help to compile testimonials. Fr. John also expressed appreciation for Fr. Alejandro, stating that he’s wonderful.

Closing prayer. Led by Fr. Armondo

Attendance: Fr. John Worgul, Fr. Armondo Alejandro, Terry Morse, Tony Gioio, Joselle Ruddle, Sue Wilson, Sharon Borcharding, Leigh Ann Gagnon, Gwen Lily, Chris Patrick, Rachel Wandishin, John Pavlik, Catherine Milstead, Laura Bird, Mark Steinbrunner, Bob Bastress, Josh Thiem, Bruce Baumgarten, Karen Spivey, Elaine McClearn, Kathy Reid, & Robert Muhl