

## **SJCC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2021**

The meeting opened with prayer, led by Mark Steinbrunner, followed by some faith sharing.

A discussion was held regarding the structure of the staff, commissions and ministries at SJCC with emphasis on the level of communication and coordination between groups. Additionally, the role of the PPC regarding these matters was included. A refined chart was presented to the Council that illustrated a “reorganization” of the staff positions, ministries, commissions, and which attempts to identify the links and communication between the staff member roles and their corresponding ministries. Furthermore, a Mission Council was introduced as a means to bridge the current gap that seems to be a contributing factor in preventing everyone from “rowing in the same direction”.

It has been proposed that the Mission Council would essentially be on the same level as the Parish staff with regard to overseeing the lay activities within the Parish. This council would consist of lay leadership, and would provide aligned direction, based on the Parish Pastoral Plan, for the ministries and their commissions, as well as provide clear communication consistent with the Plan, and the overall vision for SJCC. These lay leaders would be current members of present ministries, but, would be those that display the strong Missionary Discipleship qualities that we are working toward. On a broad level, the structure was well received. In the proposed chart, a Director of Evangelization is a staff position that will need to be filled. However, the definition of the job description for this role is unclear at present. The next step is defining the new role, duties and membership of the Mission Council, as well as clarifying the communication and coordination methods between the Mission Council and the other groups in the parish.

There will be an all staff and leadership meeting on the morning of Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is intended to work through some of these ongoing questions surrounding the structure of the church as a whole. The proposed chart will be utilized as a starting point and tool to encourage open discussion, but provide organization and focus. Additionally Fr. John is hopeful that after this activity, a clearer understanding around defining the role of a Director of Evangelization will arise. Lastly, this is not an exercise to completely change all that currently exists. Rather, to fill in any opportunities to better streamline focus and ensure everyone is operating “on the same page”.

The time is approaching for new members to be discerned onto the PPC. There will be announcements at upcoming masses, as well as on the website. Nominations for new members will be accepted through April 28<sup>th</sup>. The discernment process will take place in May. Information night: May 19<sup>th</sup>. Discernment night: May 26<sup>th</sup>. Information night will be virtual, and the discernment will be in person.

A subcommittee was formed to further research best practices throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore (AOB) and beyond in structuring staff positions and responsibilities regarding the areas of Christian formation and sacramental preparation, including the positions related to Youth Ministry. The subcommittee will identify and examine the practices of other successful programs, and develop recommendations for Fr. John to consider. Terry Morse, Mark Steinbrunner, Rachel Wandishin, and Joselle Ruddle volunteered for this subcommittee. More details to come.

**Pastors Report:** Stephen Thompson has made the decision to leave SJCC (for personal reasons). There are some opportunities now within the music ministries, as well as some things that will need to be fixed. Fr John would like to bring all those involved together to talk it all over. There will be a focus on defining further what vibrant liturgy is. As well as more clearly define what we’re looking for here at SJCC regarding vibrant liturgy and/or a music director. We are currently looking to hire someone to fill this role, however not nearly as aggressively as before. We will keep our possibilities open, but there is a lot to process.

**Attendance:** Fr. John Worgul, Terry Morse, Tony Gioio, Joselle Ruddle, Sue Wilson, Sharon Borcharding, Karen Spivey, Gwen Lily, Chris Patrick, Rachel Wandishin, Laura Bird, Bob Bastress, Mark Steinbrunner, Josh Theim, Elaine McClearn, Leigh Ann Gagnon, and guest Mary Ellen Will.