

Pastoral Council Meeting
April 27, 2021
6:00-7:30PM

Council Members Present: Erin Rosales (Chair), Sue Coyle, Mark Mongin, Maria De Leon, Ron DeGroot (Trustee Secretary), John Zadrazil, Elizabeth Strick

Council Members Absent: Alex Barker (Vice-chair), Chong Ly, Daniel Thiel (Trustee Secretary), Kim Albrecht, Anne Staelens, Father Jude

Meeting was called to order by Erin Rosales at 6:00PM

Opening Prayer

Agenda was approved for today's meeting by consensus.

Prior to the meeting, Pastoral Council members were informed that there would be no Liaison reports given and that the meeting would have three main orders of business. Erin Rosales noted that Father Jude had messaged her the previous evening with an additional item regarding Parish activities honoring Mary during the month of May.

Present and Discuss a Structure and Format for Liaison Reports

The topic discussion was led by Erin Rosales and focused on 3 points for Liaison interactions with committees and reporting back to the Parish Pastoral Council. A more formalized approach.

1. What and when are each committee's plans/activities
 2. What assistance do the committees need from the Parish Pastoral Council and/or the parish community
 3. What resources do they need (time, space, money, people, etc.)
- Mark asked about the need to report on each committee at each monthly meeting – even if there has been no change in status. Discussion took place that each month should have the opportunity to share/report even if nothing is going on. A lack of activity may be a sign of needed support. If the committee is not checked in on regularly, the work it does may suffer.

There was agreement by other members, and examples of how the check-in and reporting varies - sometimes very minimal, some times more in depth.

- Sue brought up a question/comment about the role of the liaison in the work of the committee. Is it primarily the connection/communicator or is the expectation the liaison is to be involved in doing the work.

There was good discussion around this question and the consensus answer seems to be that it is up to the individual on a case-by-case basis.

As an action item: Ron has a description of Liaison role = he will send it to Fr Jude and Erin for review and distribution to Parish Pastoral Council liaisons.

- Discussion on how involved liaisons are to be in the various committees. In summarization – the role is to assist and not lead.

Mary – Month of May

Fr Jude asked that the Parish Pastoral Council check in on activities for the month of May to honor Mary. There had not been much participation/leadership from the council in the past, but Maria gave a synopsis of activities that have taken place in prior years:

1. Statue to be placed in Church – kids placed flowers at the statue at the 10am Mass
2. Saying the Rosary before Mass – 4pm, 7:30am, 9:30am
3. Travelling Mary Statue – families sign up and take one of the three travelling statues home for the week, pray over for the week and return for distribution to another family the following week

Council members did not know what activities have been planned on or put into place – it was decided to reach out to Deacon Greg and/or Sherry Zwicky to see what is in place and if any support from the council is needed.

Re-Opening & Welcome Back Activities

This is the main topic of the meeting – council members brainstormed ideas at last month's meeting and this discussion is to prioritize and recommend several items that can be implemented in the next 3 months.

Ron put together a list of the brainstormed items with potential timing. Fr. Jude identified his priority list as well. This document was made available to Parish Pastoral Council members for review prior to the meeting.

Erin facilitated input/discussion from council members. Discussion included the observation that for many people, they won't feel comfortable attending Mass until they see activities getting back to normal. Discussion about Diocese restrictions (25% capacity) and if they are going to loosen them any time soon. Discussion about ongoing communication with all parishioners to let them know what is going on at church (getting back to normal) – Ron offered that he and Mark can check in with Andy Schmidt who does outreach communications.

Following are the prioritized activities agreed upon by Parish Pastoral Council members:

Recommended

- **Invite Servers Back for Mass**

Outreach to servers – as long as they are comfortable and wear masks. Their participation in worship will increase the perception for all parishioners that things are getting back to normal.

Liaison for Worship is Kim Albrecht, discuss with Deacon Greg and Sherry Zwicky to invite servers back.

- **Re-Start Coffee & Rolls**

This could be done outdoors, or inside in a way that offers safe distancing. This will be another indication that things are getting back to normal.

Liaisons for Faith & Family Life are Elizabeth Strick and Chong Ly. Liz will check in with Alex Barker about this activity.

- **Hand Written Name Tags**

To facilitate welcoming and getting to know others who are attending Mass.

Liaison for Evangelization is Alex Barker, staff resource is Andy Schmidt. Discussion on ways to facilitate and get participation.

- **General Invitation to all Parishioners**

Outreach communication from Fr Jude/Pastoral Council to all parishioners explaining all that is being done at Mass and with other parish activities to normalize parish life - and a personal invitation to participate actively again.

Erin Rosales will talk to Fr Jude about this.

Considered

- **Welcome Weekends**

The parish has done “welcome weekends” in the past, meet and greet activities, welcoming new members, etc. This is something for Fall and planning should start.

- **Post card/post-it to People Attending Mass**

The idea is to have people write names of people who are “missing” from Mass – pray over them and then make active outreach and invite them back. Discussed that this is something to explore further once we are more open and back to “normal”.

New Pastoral Council Member to Fill Open Seat

This topic was tabled for discussion at next meeting.

Closing Prayer – St. Bernard Parish Prayer