

**ST. PAUL’S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

***Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – July13, 2020***

# Elected Members Present: Christine Forbes, Peter Adams, Patricia Davies, Ross Terranova, Pam Vogt and Rosa Gonzalez

# Elected Members Absent: Deborah Harrison, Kevin Green and Thomas Mulroy

# Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow, O. Carm. and Deacon Carl Locatelli

**Recording Secretary:** Deborah Botti

# Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe

# Others Present: None

**The meeting began with prayer at 6:48 p.m.**

# Minutes of the meeting of June 2 were accepted.

# *The following updates were given:*

# Ministry Reports:

# Education & Faith Formation:

# Re-registration for Religious Education takes place this Tuesday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. Weather permitting, this will be conducted outdoors. Masks must be worn and social distancing followed.

# The sacramental classes will meet at the church so the youngsters can get to know one another. The other classes will start online. If at any point in the year circumstances change, then the switch will be made to in-person instruction.

# The Religious Education coordinator is seeking a few more catechists.

# Most of the kids have turned in their assignments. However, there are a few more classes that the Confirmandi have to make up.

# Both the Seeds program and Children’s Liturgy of the Word have been suspended until further notice.

Christian Services:

* The team will be told that there will be no Senior Luncheons until next year, at the earliest – and the same with the repasts.
* There is a problem with supplying the 2020 Holiday Baskets. Due to warehousing constraints, Aldi’s, which offered favorable pricing, will no longer be able to assist us. The Hudson Valley Food Bank will be investigated as a possible source of pantry staples. Hannaford’s and ShopRite also seem committed to helping the community. And Sam’s Club is another economically-friendly option.

Worship & Spiritual Life:

The Youth Ministry has been meeting every Thursday with a dedicated small core group of participants. Recently, there was an awesome guest speaker - Kid Catholic. It was really something special, quite moving.

# Chairperson’s Report - Christine Forbes:

# The Reopening Subcommittee has been meeting weekly for the past three or four weeks. Here are highlights of the discussions:

# Feedback from parishioners and volunteers has been good, with general recognition of all the work and preparation that has gone into resuming Mass. One parishioner’s comment was shared, “It was a terrific experience.”

# There is no online streaming of Mass at this point. Broadcasting Mass into Deacon John Hall was explored, but the numbers have been too low to even consider this.

# More volunteers are needed. Each Mass requires seven volunteers. If there is a return to three weekend Masses (although the numbers aren’t there yet) 21 volunteers will be required. And even without increasing the number of Masses, volunteers are already serving frequently. While they don’t mind, it’s certain to be a problem down the road.

# Vicar’s Report – Fr. Sean Harlow:

# Last weekend, we had full Sunday attendance. There were more children, and the choir and balcony were used for some seating. But only 30 came on Saturday. We have a better shot at better numbers on Sunday, but two Masses on Sunday raises concerns about volunteers and sanitizing.

# Discussion ensued about the extenuating circumstances of the previous two Saturdays: 4th of July weekend, followed by the threat of serious thunderstorms. It was agreed that it was too soon to give up on Saturdays.

# The Reopening Subcommittee will continue to meet weekly until the Mass schedule has been established and the ministries that participate at Mass – lectors, Eucharistic ministers and the choir – have returned.

# Open Forum:

# Discussion opened with conversation about snowbirds and their re-introduction into the community, and then segued into Mass, vacations and the virus.

# It was noted that attendees have been cooperative at Mass – wearing masks and maintaining social distance – but a mask-less group of 10-15 was noted chatting in the parking lot afterward. Several members commented on similar behaviors seen when out in public.

# What about folks returning from vacation out of state? They should quarantine for two weeks or get tested – something impossible to enforce – especially since many rentals are Saturday-to-Saturday. Folks might just automatically come to Mass on Sunday.

# Parishioners who experience symptoms and have come to Mass should contact the church as a courtesy, rather than waiting for a tracer.

# Underscoring the risk posed by travel, it was noted that the troopers are looking for out-of-state license plates, and visitors to New York by plane are being asked for contact information for tracing purposes.

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# The meeting closed at 7:31 p.m. with prayer.

# Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, August 10 at 6:45 p.m.

# Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti