



## ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – May 9, 2021*

**Elected Members Present:** Christine Forbes, Deborah Harrison, Patricia Davies, Kevin Green, Peter Adams, Pam Vogt and Rosa Gonzalez

**Elected Members Absent:** Ross Terranova

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

**Recording Secretary:** Deborah Botti

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Liz Locatelli and Maxine Martin

**The meeting began with prayer at 6:47 p.m.**

**Minutes of the meeting of April 12 were accepted.**

### **Reopening Committee Updates**

- While streaming, there have been some laptop issues with connections and audio. The laptop is older, and the necessary updates have been problematic because an update can't be predicted. When the streamer is setting up and notes there's an update, he or she will click "yes" – and then it takes an inconvenient amount of time for the process to complete.
  - The laptop could be checked Friday for updates. However, that is still no guarantee that an update won't pop up on Sunday morning.
  - The echo during one Mass was thought to be caused by the streamer's phone being open; miscommunication rather than a technical problem.
  - A new laptop could be purchased.
  - An Apple TV box, which has a Twitch app, is another option. It offers less stumbling blocks than a laptop; all the streamer would have to do is click the Twitch app. The highest price is about \$200, and it also offers the ability to stream movies. The negative is that the remote has to be charged.
  - A Firestick could also be used, but it isn't as good as Apple's product. There's no extra cost with a subscription, and Netflix is considered a subscription. It's been used with the Youth Ministry, and most other apps will play on it.

- There were also some hiccups on the camera side. Even a good phone, like every technical device, has to be turned off after updating and then restarted to reset. Compounding the problem is the number of updates because of cybersecurity. Restarting the phone at church before each Mass would make a huge difference.
  - There have been no complaints about the clarity of the live-stream. Therefore, it doesn't make sense to invest in the more elaborate setup that Our Lady of Mount Carmel has.
- The number of volunteers is fluctuating. While a few more have stepped up as a result of Fr. Sean's Flocknote, others are stepping down. However, the attendance numbers do not support returning to three Masses at this point.
  - More chairs will be set up in the hall – at least 30, including rows of three chairs along the kitchen wall. There has been a need for more seats on Sundays.
  - If certain people are comfortable sitting together, they can. The ushers will be advised to let this happen naturally.
  - Reopening Committee members were excused at 7:11 p.m.

### **Administration & Stewardship**

A refinisher looked at the church doors, main and East Wing, which have been beaten by the sun. They need to be sanded, stained and polyurethaned, and then polyurethaned annually thereafter. There might be also be some warping.

The doors will not have to be taken off to refinish, although thorough drying time could be an issue. If they need to be planed, they will have to be removed.

All things considered, the refinisher's estimate should be compared with the cost of new doors.

### **Education & Faith Formation**

The Confirmation and First Eucharist ceremonies were beautiful. Bishop Lagonegro was inspiring as always, and the children making their First Holy Communion were adorable. With the challenges of this year behind her, the Religious Education coordinator quickly headed to Disney World to recoup for a few days.

There was nothing to report on behalf of Adult Faith Formation.

### **Christian Services**

The Prayer chain is very effective and something that the deacons use in planning hospital visits. Perhaps there is a way for a volunteer to follow up with a phone call after a hospitalization to see if there is any assistance that can be provided during convalescence?

To circumvent any potential negative reaction to unwanted calls, the deacons could ask the hospitalized parishioner if a follow-up call would be welcomed.

Volunteers could be culled from the Senior Luncheon crew

## **Social Activities**

Everyone is itching to start planning activities.

A drive-by fish fry or barbecue is fine, but doesn't build community, so a starting point would be to check what the state guidelines are for outdoor events. How many people would be allowed? Are masks required?

Mamakating Town Park should also be investigated. It's larger and could have more tables under its pavilion, making it easier for folks to spread out.

## **Worship & Spiritual Life**

The Youth Ministry is planning activities, cognizant of the importance of protocol when the church is hosting. Additionally, the vaccine was just approved for kids 12-15, so many aren't vaccinated yet.

Still parking lot games are possible, such as cornhole and basketball, as well as a visit from the Ice Cream Lady. With some gentle reminders about masks or distancing, the core group of 15-20 kids can get together safely.

Additionally, the YM is looking into what the kids can do to benefit their community. Along with cleaning Route 17K, perhaps something involving elderly parishioners? Or yard cleanup?

## **Art and Environment**

The search for a new coordinator will begin this summer.

## **Chairperson's Report**

Nothing to report.

## **Vicar's Report**

Nothing to report.

## **Other Business**

- If things don't turn around, might an outdoor Mass be possible, such as what St. Mary's in Washingtonville has done? A rented stage (similar to what is used at a concert) would make the altar visible. Sound would be transmitted via the car radio. More research would be required, with St. Mary's the obvious starting point.
- Tony Mazzeo has what he describes as an exquisite dollhouse that he would value at \$1,000, if not more, which he would consider donating it to St. Paul's to raffle. It would need to be safely displayed to garner interest, and at a time when raffle tickets could be sold and people allowed to mingle.

**The meeting closed at 7:50 p.m. with prayer.**

**Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, June 14, at 6:45 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**