



## ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – November 9, 2020*

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

**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:** None

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

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

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

### Reopening Committee Updates

- Live-streaming the Mass into the hall the past two weeks - at which there were first 13 and then 14 in attendance - has been successful. No one has refused sitting there, and the feedback has been positive. There are just a few details to iron out:
  - Only chairs (without tables) will be set up to allow maximum seating and ease of grouping families.
  - One volunteer needs to be stationed in the hall; a volunteer from the church can assist, if needed. A total of seven volunteers should be sufficient.
  - Required in order to live-stream: Something from which to stream, (a laptop with HDMI is the easiest), a cell phone and a tripod (the latter about \$20 from Amazon, and it comes with an adapter). Should the hall volunteer use his or her own phone or should there be a dedicated phone provided by the church?
  - Not all the volunteers need to learn how to live-stream. Deb Harrison and Chris Worthington have prepared straightforward instructions, and will be available for training. The instructions can be sent to the volunteers to learn who is most comfortable with this process.
- The second topic was the survey. Peter Adams and Liz Locatelli have preliminary information from the approximately 200 respondents to date. It was suggested that Fr. Sean send out another Flocknote with a reminder to respond by November 16 and

to again include a direct link to the survey.

- Of the 88 (almost 50 percent) of the respondents who are not attending Mass, only three said the times are inconvenient, which means the times are fine. Additionally, six were concerned they couldn't get in and 11 indicated that they were uncomfortable with the safety restrictions.
- The number of families participating is 137, and some in multiple pursuits, such as the various Zoom meetings, youth ministry, etc. However, others had no idea of what was going on and wanted more information on activities such as the holiday baskets. Those names have been passed along.
- Although very few selected that clergy and parishioners have reached out (Question 12), only one person indicated feeling abandoned. The majority felt safe, albeit frustrated in general.
- There is concern about the negativity that is being spread, although perhaps that negativity is not as pervasive as initially feared. However, there has to be a response to the survey to acknowledge that parishioners have been heard. After all the responses are tabulated, an action plan will be devised.

### **Administration & Stewardship**

There will be a staff meeting this week to discuss Advent, Christmas and the Holy Day.

### **Education & Faith Formation**

- The first-graders were really struggling with religious education via Zoom. They now have the option to meet – socially-distanced and with their own colorful lap trays - in the main church as the third-graders do.
- The Sunday Scripture Study and Book Club continue to meet via Zoom. About the same number that attended in person have signed up virtually, but we're not reaching any new people. Obviously, those who are available during the day are retired or out of work, and evening hours are often limited for those who are working – especially if they have young children.

### **Christian Services**

- There are already about 60 families signed up for Thanksgiving Baskets, and between 14 and 22 volunteers. The volunteers will safely fill the baskets observing social-distance protocols. Volunteers will also distribute the food as each car pulls up to the doors to the hall. No one will get out of their cars, and everyone is to wear masks.
- Therese Quinn and Mary McCabe have been distributing Giving Tree angels via phone or email requests. There are only 15-20 remaining.

### **Worship & Spiritual Life**

- Because of the pandemic, there has been a growth in interest in Scripture among the Virtual Youth Ministry Meeting participants. What began as a task is now a weekly activity that our incredible youth look forward to; they put thought into the Bible verses they select to share.

- There is a hunger for things to do – especially as Advent and Christmas approach. Discussion ensued about caroling. Could the youth ministry plan something outdoors? Or in cars? While wearing masks and socially distanced? Clearly, it would be difficult to make caroling work. As an alternative, a video of a compilation of songs and Scripture readings to share was suggested and will be pursued.

**The meeting closed at 8:10 p.m. with prayer.**

**Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, November 9, at 6:45 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**