

OUR LADY OF HOPE PASTORAL COUNCIL minutes for February 10, 2021

Present: Fr. Paul Sullivan, SJ, Dermot Bostock, Kathy Eliscu, Bill Burke, Mary Ellen White, Estelle Lavoie, Elizabeth Manning, Mary Cafazzo, Bill Slavick,

- 1) **Opening Prayer & Spiritual reading** - led by Fr. Paul. Dermott read the gospel of Mark 8:1-10. Members shared their reflections on this reading.

- 2) **Minutes** - January minutes - OK

- 3) **Quick update on our Financial status:** Report by Mary – Our Lady OF Hope Parish was eligible for the second PPP Loan. There was no overhead cost incurred with these loans, the Chancery did all the work and got the grants. We are doing OK with offertory – basically we are holding our own due to the faithfulness of our parishioners with their offertory. The Knights of Columbus have also been very generous to the parish by absorbing all the costs of the Drive Thru Diners and giving the Parish the profits from these fund raising events. St. Brigid School also refunded to the Parish \$91,000 from their grant which is a big boost to the Parish. It was also noted that there has been a shift for parishioners to use WeShare more and drop their weekly envelopes which will help with the cost of envelopes for the Parish. There also seems to be a small increase of Loose money coming in the weekly offertory which had not happened since the beginning of COVID-19.

- 4) **Looking ahead:** Fr. Paul gave the documentation submitted from the Council & the Finance Committees to Bishop Deeley last Friday. Now we will wait to get his response.

- 5) **New Members for the Council:** We need to make a big push to get new members for the Pastoral Council. Each Pastoral Council member will think about someone to ask to join the PC. We need to start this process now. In the next couple of days, each PC member will write a two-sentence piece on what they have experienced as a PC Member & submit to Fr. Paul. From this, a description will be put in the Bulletin as to what a PC Member does as a member of the Council. We also need to stay with the current rotation.

- 6) **Ministry Convocation:** Needs to be planned. What do you want to do to expand these ministries that are already in place? *May not be able to expand some Ministries such as the Elderly / Home Visits / Facility Visits for Communion until Covid-19 has ended*; however it will be good to be ready to go when we are can do this safely after Covid-19

Cheverus High School – How can we increase our relationship with Cheverus? Be included in some of their Ignatius programs that they already have going?

Current Ministries – We need to encourage our current ministry leaders that are in place to get their own groups up and going. The Parish Staff only facilitates the groups to get up and running, does not do the actual work.

A question that was asked & a thought stated during this discussion of Ministries – How can we make the In-Person Registration and On-Line Registration work together? Post covid-19 we want to keep the Welcoming Committees that are now at the Doors of the Churches checking people in at the Masses.

** Fr. Paul announced that Fr. Kevin will be staying another year.

Survey: A Sub-Committee comprised of Fr. Paul, Mary, Dermot & Elizabeth will meet and discuss the results of the survey. They will look at the survey & identify gaps in the survey like the young people. The Dashboard link to the survey that Elizabeth has created gives a good summary of the survey results. The subcommittee will be looking at these results in the next month and will give an opinion of the survey results at the next PC meeting. The PC members were also encouraged to look at this summary and give their feed back.

**October 30, 2021 Parish Retreat in Biddeford. A day of reflection/retreat is being planned for the Parish as part of our observances of the World-Wide Year celebrating St. Ignatius. May 2021 – July 2022.

Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Paul.

Next Pastoral Council meeting will be March 10, 2021

Respectably submitted,
Linda McCormack, Parish Administrative Assistant