

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

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

- 1) **Opening Prayer & Spiritual reading** - Kathy Eliscu read the Reading Fr. Paul had submitted to all the PC Members – Dn 3:25, 34-43. PC Members shared their reflections on the reading.
- 2) **Minutes** - February minutes - OK
- 3) **Survey: A Presentation of initial report** -- Elizabeth Manning gave a report. There seems to be 2 themes: a) Spiritual b) Social. The Covid 19 is not the cause for, but an accelerant for the issues of dispersed and disconnected faith community that had already started. Being able to practice the faith during this Covid 19 period is and has proved challenging to all. Many of the older parishioners have a harder time using the technical equipment to keep up with the live streaming to watch the Masses and programs in order to keep updated. The telephone is still the primary means of communicating as well as written communications such as the bulletin for many of the parishioners.

Recommendations:

- 1) Public acknowledgement of thanks to all parish members who took the time to take the survey should be included in a report to the entire parish. This parish-wide report will provide a synopsis of what we heard from respondents and what this means for our parish planning going forward.
- 2) A concerted effort to engage existing parish ministries and to connect individual respondents with ministry personnel to make sure that offers of help and aid are recognized and used, and that requests for needs and wants are met.
- 3) An evaluation of existing parish ministries, with the aim to create new ministries where needed, revitalize flagging ministries in need of support, and eliminating ministries no longer active or needed.
- 4) Updating parish records with new contact info and realigning parish numbers to accurately reflect active parish members.

Elizabeth will send this report to all PC Members to look over and submit their opinions to Dermott by this Tuesday, March 15, 2021.

- 4) **Ministry Matching** – Mary gave a quick update regarding the Ministries. Mary would like the PC Members to add any suggestions as to new Ministries or phase out a group that is not used at this time. Members were asked to reach out to parishioners who have expressed interest in a particular area they would like to have at OLOH Parish. Example—there is an interest in a Nursing Ministry. Kathy Eliscu will reach out to the parishioners who have asked and see what they are looking for. Mary will send out a copy of the Ministries contact/information list to all the PC Members for their review and suggestions/remarks.

- 5) **Update from the communication with the Bishop regarding parish planning process** – Fr. Paul has an appointment with the Bishop April 14th. Per Fr. Paul, the Bishop seems to be generally happy with what the Jesuits are doing here in the Parish. Fr. Paul will report back to the PC Members regarding the Bishop’s suggestions following the meeting with the Bishop.
- 6) **Covid 19 Update** – At this time there is not much to update. Fr. Paul & Mary have a meeting tomorrow regarding any updates from the Chancery and will sent out the updates following the meeting. A note of thanks to Bill Burke for working so hard with his staff in order to keep St. Brigid open during this Covid time. Per Bill Burke, the teachers have worked extremely hard to make it work live and remotely. Thank you to all the Teachers and Bill Burke. Bill Burke also stated that St. Brigid has 288 students and a waiting list for next year.
- 7) **Update on potential new Council Members** – Mary Ellen White said Lauren Tigerman would be willing to serve if asked; Cathy Eliscu has asked Scott Dalton and Scott will think about it; Elizabeth Manning also has a name – Pauline if it is feasible for her to be a member, Pauline is legally blind. PC Members were asked to think and submit other names as well for Council nominations. These names will be prayed over during the Easter Season and chosen on Pentecost Sunday. In June, there will be a PC Meeting will all the current members and the new members attending. In September, the out-going members will rotate off and the new members will begin.
- 8) **“Young family seeking child-friendly church with programs for children** – Mary gave a report. Mary belongs to a neighborhood group and some of the younger families had asked what Catholic Churches in the Portland area were child friendly with programs geared for children. As a result of this discussion, PC Members were asked to submit at the next PC Member Meeting, a list of what they think/feel a Friendly Church is. Fr. Paul would like this information it to be useful so that a New Program Coordinator (if hired) could use this information to establish new programs to help build the parish.
- 9) **Any other business** – Per Fr. Paul – thoughts expressed at the last Events Committee:
 - a) Replace Christmas Bazaar as it stands now for a Live Auction/Silent Auction/hors d’oeuvres reception.
 - b) Our Lady Of Hope Birthday celebration – OLOH is ten years old – this summer or early fall?
 - c) Summer Ideas – Get back to a Ministries Convocation date & planning for next meeting.

Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Paul.

Next Pastoral Council meeting will be April 14, 2021

Respectably submitted,
Linda McCormack, Parish Administrative Assistant