

## **Pastoral Council Meeting November 10, 2021**

**Present:** Fr. Paul Sullivan, SJ, Dermot Bostock, Jim McCarthy, Jane Driscoll, Kathy Eliscu, Mary Cafazzo, Peter Rickett, Estelle Lavoie, Scott Dalton, Bill Burke, Bill Slavick, Fr. Brian Conley, SJ

**Excused absence:** Karen Welch

Meeting began with a Prayer/Reading from Luke 18:1-8. Jim McCarthy read the reading the first time around. All members gave brief thoughts on the reading.

Mary Cafazzo did the Reading the second time. All members gave extended thoughts on the reading.

**October Minutes** were accepted.

- 1) **Advent/Christmas calendar:** Fr. Paul went over the Advent Calendar with the members. Will maintain the traditional Christmas Mass schedule except that there will be no Mass in the Fr. Hayes Center. The extra Masses will be in the Parish Hall at St. Pius X.
- 2) **Review Thanks4Giving Silent Auction and Tree Festival:** Some of the thoughts that were expressed: - Very well done & very organized. People enjoyed themselves. This event was considered a success. The On-Line Bidding was easy to use. People were impressed how well the bidding went. Some ideas for improvement for next year were expressed. The Events Committee will discuss the Festival and see what changes if any are needed for next year at their next regular meeting. The amount of Donations was extremely generous and greatly appreciated. Paul Leblond did a great job putting this together.
- 3) **Planning Process update and discussion:** Following a meeting of the Presbyteral Council and a meeting Fr. Paul had with Bishop Deeley, some revisions were made to the contract proposal with McPherson, Simmons Bros & Sons (Troy Simmons) for work at the parish. (Note on Nov. 16 those revisions were given to the Bishop for his approval). This company will evaluate our two properties and make recommendations/cost estimates for repairs and modifications that will best suit our parish and school needs going forward. The contact cost will be covered by existing parish assets and interest on our investment funds.
- 4) **How will we conduct 'synod process' for our parish:** The diocese will send to each Parish Pastoral Council a questionnaire around Nov. 21. There will be other opportunities for input as well in the diocesan process.  
The PC here wishes to involve our parish in this listening process, including people who are not normally "at the table." Plan of action: **A.** Council members are asked/encouraged to think about topics/questions/invitations to conversation to offer to our parish. **B.** Members are also asked to think about what the process here can look like. Dermot mentioned we had some success earlier with a survey sent out to parishioners in 2020. It was observed that the results from this process can well (we hope) tie in with our planning process. "Homework for PC" A and B above. Share your results/questions/insights with the rest of the PC via email (use "reply all" to respond). If we make good progress on this in the next couple of weeks, we can likely omit our regular December PC meeting. If we don't make such progress, then we will need that Dec. meeting time. That's the challenge!
- 5) **Ways to encourage more involvement by parishioners (beyond Sunday Mass)** - Tabled for another discussion time.

- 6) **Other:** A) Dermot thanked the people for attending his son's noon time concert.  
B) Kathy is concerned about people not wearing masks to Mass. Wants to make it mandatory to wear masks to attend Mass. Discussion ensued among the members regarding the pros & cons. Members agreed that realistically we cannot make mask wearing a requirement; we can continue to encourage it.
- 7) **Festival of Lights:** Per Bill Burke, this will happen. Bill has individuals who are responsible for making the Activities work. A lot of the suggestions have already been put in motion by the leaders of the individual activity. Some of the activities are: lights on fences, in the windows of the school, on the trees, food, hot chocolate/cider stand, 50/50; Music-System all set; Giving Tree with Tags, Living Nativity by the school students, Christmas Card Sale, Games for Kids (maybe Reindeer Games), school will give mini tours of the school; Music outside for Carols-Kathy will take care of it; music inside as people are looking at the crèche. There are other activities that need leaders such as Christmas Wreath decorating, ? having a Food/Mitten/Hat Drive Collection Boxes for those in need; Volunteers for Crowd control. There will be NO designated fee for this event, donations will be appreciated. No backup plan for bad weather. Cathy will look into the Gingerbread Men & Candy Cane idea. Council members are encouraged to be involved and to encourage others to attend.
- 8) **Bill Burke gave a quick report on the school:** St. Brigid's is in the process of being given NEASC accreditation. The school met all the requirements needed to become accredited; we await the final report. The visiting NEASC Committee felt that St. Brigid is living their spirit. Enrollment for the coming year have 225 returning next year at this point with new admissions occurring. The school is almost fully staffed. Just hired an Athletic Director, Aftercare Director, & Summer Director. Going well at the school, the Spirit is alive and growing strong.

**Faith Formation New Change** – reports from a family are favorable.

Closed with Prayer by Fr. Brian

Next meeting ***depends-see #4***. Either December 8, 2021 or January 12, 2022 7PM Have a great Christmas & New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McCormack, Parish Administrative Assistant