

Saint Francis de Sales Pastoral Council

Minutes – September 17, 2020

Members of the Saint Francis de Sales Pastoral Council (PC) met on September 17, 2020 (this is the first meeting since February 20, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic), in the Parish Center. Those attending the meeting were Father Paul Wharton, Deacon Harry Evans, Sam Interdonato, John Sadowski, Regina Fairchild, Jason Hudak, Brian Keiling, Delores Fondale, Kathy Lynch, Kolleen Finch, Elizabeth Thewes, Josh Reeve, John Halliwell, and Sheila Zeto.

The meeting was called to order and an opening prayer.

Minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting were emailed to the membership prior to the meeting for review.

The committee reports dating back to March 2020 were emailed to the membership prior to the meeting for review. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, committees and groups have not been meeting.

- The Liturgy Committee has dealt with significant challenges due to the pandemic. The following changes were implemented:
 - Once masses were permitted to resume by the Diocese, the masses were live-streamed for parishioners.
 - Procedures for the safe return of in-person mass had to be developed and implemented. Part of this was the means to politely turn parishioners away once the church reached safe capacity.
 - Sacraments were conveyed to the 2 RCIA participants at Pentecost rather than the Easter Vigil.
 - Reconciliation was moved to Mary's House to enable social distancing.
 - The parish has performed baptisms and funerals with limited attendance.
 - Confirmation occurred for the youth of the parish.
- Ladies of St. Francis
 - No meetings during the pandemic. A meeting may occur on October 4th.
- Knights of Columbus
 - Meetings resumed but will now be held at 6:15 instead of 7:45.
 - As they have not been able to hold weekly bingo, it has made it harder financially.
 - A raffle was held to try and raise money and it went well.
 - All officers have agreed to maintain their position for an additional year.
- Couples of Christ
 - No report

- St. Francis De Sales School
 - 170 students in total of which 36 are Pre-K and Kindergarten and 34 are middle school.
 - The school held a “boot camp” the week prior to beginning school to allow students to get accustomed to the protocols put in place because of the pandemic.
 - Ms. Worley is a new fourth grade teacher.
 - Morning drop-off includes a COVID questionnaire.
 - New protocols have been implemented for meals to promote social distancing, including having 5 lunch periods.
 - Additional cleaning measures have been put in place.
 - Students are being kept “grouped” to limit interaction.
 - Elementary students will not participate in sports. Middle school students will have sports participation.
 - School mass will resume.
- Education Committee
 - Has not met due to the pandemic.
- Christian Formation
 - Classes will resume the first weekend in October (October 4)
 - Each grade will have in-person class once a month and additional material will be sent home for the remainder of the month.
 - The Diocese has asked that a waiver and a code of conduct be signed.
 - No family are permitted in the building.
 - Protocols similar to mass will be used including hand sanitizer, facemasks, and social distancing.
 - Families will receive information via mail regarding the procedures.
- Building/Grounds/Maintenance
 - Drainage projects have been performed around the Sacus Center.
 - Drainage around the gym has been corrected and water runoff from the school has been diverted to prevent icing in the winter. A spring in the driveway was also addressed.
 - Roof repairs have been made to the gym and school.
 - A couple areas were subject to vandalism.
 - Classrooms in the school were re-configured to promote social distancing.
 - The ladies restroom in De Sales Hall was updated.
 - New LED lighting will be installed in the sanctuary in mid-October.
 - New video equipment in the form of a production camera system will be installed to improve the quality for live-streaming mass. This will be done possibly in mid-November.

- Parish
 - Streaming mass on Facebook for parishioners.
 - A program is being live-streamed on Facebook on Monday evenings.
 - Readers are resuming their activities at mass.
 - The COVID updates appear to be well-received.
 - Currently there is no timeline for rescind the dispensation of the Sunday obligation because of the pandemic.
- Financial
 - The capital improvements undertaken this summer have been paid for in full.
 - The parish received Payroll Protection Program funding.
 - The parish may have to use some savings to assist the school with the additional expenses incurred due to the pandemic.
 - Overall, the parish is in good standing financially.

Unfinished Business

- All members of the PC will extend their terms for 1 year.
- The parish mission with Paul Koleske had to be cancelled. The parish will attempt to re-schedule when possible.
- The Cross-Catholic meal had to be cancelled and has not been re-scheduled at this point.
- The security camera upgrades for the school are in progress. Father Paul wrote and was awarded a grant which will be used for the security camera upgrades as well as the production camera installation. This will possibly allow for mass to be streamed to the Parish Center.

New Business

- None.

Faith Sharing

- Faith sharing was provided by Elizabeth Thewes.

Volunteers for the Next Meeting

- Regina Fairchild volunteered to lead the prayer for the next meeting.
- Deacon Harry Evans will provide faith sharing for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by praying the Our Father.