



Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Father Peter Grace, CP

Monday, January 11, 2021

**** Note this meeting was conducted virtually ****

Members: Father Peter Grace, Martin Dramou, Mike Ellison, Patrick Ginty, Mary Hansen, Misael Jaramillo, George Lozano, Louise Lupo, Marco Maya, Anne Miller, Laura Olmedo, Dean Penny, Kevin Pilotte, Andrea Ramirez, Victor Sanchez, Sean Skelly, Jon Soika

Members Excused: Martin Dramou, Marco Maya

Members Absent: Patrick Ginty, Mary Hansen, George Lozano

Opening Prayer: Jenni Vasquez

Guests: Jenni Vasquez

Approval of Minutes: Jon Soika made a motion to approve the December minutes with minor revisions; this was seconded by Victor Sanchez, and all agreed.

Youth Report: Jenni Vasquez

- Challenging year but still many accomplishments. No board meeting yet; scheduled for Thursday.
- 2020 recap:
 - Jan – March for Life in Washington DC this year.
 - Feb – Valentine’s Day Dinner.
 - Mar – COVID hit; Virtual (Zoom) was utilized very early.
 - Apr – virtual meetings every Thursday.
 - May – resumed some in-person activities; shut down youth group at the end of the month; continued with virtual activities.
 - June/July – maintained virtual meetings every Thursday; full meetings – sometimes for 2 hours with meaningful discussions.
 - Aug – in-person events resumed; retreat (25 kids in person; attendees from around the world participated remotely).
 - Sep – drive-in movies; cars were 6 ft apart. 😊 Assisted with IFF events. Camp night was great success; 30 kids came and brought camping gear; activities include Eucharistic adoration.
 - Oct – in-person meetings resumed, with good adherence to safety protocols.
 - December – participated in apparitions; celebrated Christmas; bake sale was held as a fundraiser for NCYC in Indianapolis at end of November 2021, which is quite expensive; fundraising will be held throughout the year to help offset travel expenses.

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH



- Entering 2021 with lots of courage and heart and with a positive attitude.
- Goals for 2021:
 - Participate in more diocesan events.
 - Reach out to other communities who do not have a youth group (several others in our deanery); many don't have Wi-Fi or computers.
 - Many kids on board the past two years are heading to college; sorry to see them leave, but opportunities for others will emerge with numerous chances to volunteer.
- Anne expressed concern about the safety of attending the Raleigh Rally for Life. Kevin noted the Lt. Governor will be attending.
- Jenni attended the NCYC several years ago, and it strongly impacted her faith—especially the large number of youth attendees. She wants others to experience the same thing. Reps from all over the country attend—very large presence. Youth will be there for three days, with numerous talks (e.g., youth ministry, music ministry, etc., etc.) and activities (e.g., adoration).
- In terms of the middle school opportunity, she does not have the capacity to lead this group in addition to all her other responsibilities; volunteers are very much needed. Mike suggested the parish consider possibly hiring someone else to support Lupe and FF and allow Jenni to take over an expanded full-time youth minister role.
- Mike also asked what is being done to reach out to the lukewarm kids; Jenni noted that it is a real challenge to reach those who only come occasionally. Additional numbers and additional recruitment by current youth members may be effective in reaching potential new recruits.
- Fr. Grace said parents can be a limiting factor; some kids are rural and live a significant distance from the church (e.g., 1 hour); others are concerned about in-person events during this pandemic. COVID has presented many challenges.
- Sean complimented Jenni for her eloquent presentation and all her efforts. Sean noted CYO was a part of his youth group experience growing up, and they competed athletically against other parishes; Sean offered to help in considering sports-based activities for the youth.
- Misael noted that when parents return to church (post-COVID), additional youth members may come forward.

Vision for Parish:

Open discussion

- Kevin asked about additional training for the ushers that was noted last month. Fr. noted the shortage of ushers and the need for training for COVID protocols. Kevin will follow up with Fr. offline to discuss further.
- Fr. looking for general inputs for the new year—both the new calendar year and the new fiscal year that begins in July. The staff is stretched pretty thin in terms of communications efforts.
- There was a couple who came in and wants to be married in the church. They had never physically been in the church but have watched online since the pandemic began, when they moved to the area. This underscores the importance of our communication efforts in broadcasting the Masses.
- Dean felt Mike's point about investing in our middle school youth is a great topic.

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- Jon noted prioritization will be as important as ever in the setting of next year's budget, as there is so much uncertainty with what a post-COVID attendance/offertory will look like.
- Anne noted we must focus on our volunteers and our ministries because of their importance in the life of the parish. Louise noted that efforts to highlight the ministries will continue to promote the many ways folks can get involved. Dean questioned whether new parish registrants are asked about their interest in ministries; if so, what is the next step in terms of ensuring someone who shows an interest is contacted by that ministry? Kevin used to find new ushers through the new-parishioner questionnaire, but it's been several years since he has. A personal phone call from the parish to registrants was suggested as a great first step.

Response to Giving

Tree:

Louise Lupo

- Helped 13 families with gift cards and money that were donated toward the giving tree associated with Christmas. Those donations that came in late will be given to the priests for them to distribute when needy families come before them. Anne suggested that those families who become known through the EFAM ministry be considered for those gifts.
- Update on priests' health: Fr. Tom quarantined because of exposure to Fr. Hector and didn't test positive until after his quarantine ended. Symptoms are mostly gone now, and he will return to activity the end of this week. Fr. Hector went to the hospital on 12/27 and has been on the ventilator since 1/3; he has pneumonia but has shown some improvement in recent days.
- Victor had a concern after seeing Fr. and another Eucharistic minister removing ropes from the pews as they were administering Communion. He suggested that youth or other volunteers or altar server to assist with this activity.
- Victor suggested we updated the photo on the website to show the front of the church (i.e., from US 70 Business) and include our new sign.

Closing Prayer:

Father Peter

The next meeting is Monday, February 15, 2021 at 7 PM in the Parish Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

These notes were respectfully submitted by Jonathan Soika.