

Peace of Christ Parish

Pastoral Council Minutes/May 12, 2020

Via Cisco Webex

Present: Fr. Tim Brown, Carolyn Conrow, Karen Costello, Robert Crego, Lola DeAscentiis, Alan Dickinson, Judy Dickinson, Ken Klamm, Jane Koch, Gail Layer, Rob Layer, Sue Morrison, Fr. Robert Schrader, Mary Ellen Steele, Raymond Warth, Catherine Witner

Excused: Deacon Robert Corsaro, Robert Meisenzahl, Sr. Marlene Vigna

Scribe: Goldie Rogers

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm via Cisco Webex (due to COVID-19 Shutdown)

Opening Prayer - Ken Klamm

Approval of April Minutes and May Agenda

The April Minutes and May Agenda were accepted as written.

Open Forum – no one

Councilor Concerns

One of the council members received a telephone inquiry asking what happens to the profit from parish activities such as 200 Club, Parish Dinner, etc. Fr. Bob commented that all such funds go into the Parish General Fund. The televised daily Mass has been well-received. The question was raised as to whether the parish would be reaching out to anyone in need of assistance. Fr. Bob said the office has not received any specific requests. The media has been promoting several projects everywhere in the area. The parish office has been working on an E-Blast list for parish use but parishioners do not as a general rule inform the parish office of a change in their email addresses.

Ken reminded everyone that the Chair and Vice Chair are elected at the June meeting for 2020—21. It would not be possible to have the usual election procedure in a video meeting. He requested that Council members let him know privately of their interest in either of these positions. He will create an online voting ballot so this can be done anonymously.

Survey Discussion – Lola

Council Members had previously forwarded to Ken their input of the most important issues from the survey to be considered. Everyone received a copy of the notes from the sub-committee meeting. Lola reviewed the highlighted items. The subject of a ramp at St. Ambrose was mentioned. Fr. Bob will take this up at the next staff meeting. This is a major undertaking because of the space required. Another issue was keeping youth active in the parish after they receive the sacraments – as servers, lectors, other roles. More issues – small gatherings (all groups); electronic mailing; outreach. Rob mails out 23 church bulletins to the homebound every week.

Youth Report – Raymond

At the Youth Group Zoom meeting, Lola and Raymond introduced the idea of writing to our 51 homebound parishioners as a way to help them feel connected during the pandemic. Lola and Raymond with Ken Klamm are inviting all young parishioners, 21 years and younger, to complete an online Youth Survey. There will be a link on the website.

Financials/School/CMA Update – Fr. Bob

Our Catholic Ministries Appeal Goal of \$110,395 has been reached. A total of \$122,402 was actually pledged. To date, we have received \$114,673. Some of the pledges may go unpaid because of the current pandemic. The deadline for payment for this year is May 31; after that date, any payment would be credited to next year's campaign. Half of any overage is returned to the parish for their use.

The stimulus grant for St. Ambrose Academy was approved so the teachers are being paid as they are continuing to teach the students online. All but three students have been taking advantage of this new model necessitated by the New York State pause.

Fr. Bob mentioned that parishioners have been faithful in keeping up with their regular donations and others have signed up for electronic banking. The tenant interested in the St. John the Evangelist building should be making the final decision later this week.

RocACTS Task Force Reports

Rob – no meeting

Karen – remote training taking place; working on a proposal for a joint project

Alan – A Racial Disparity Letter was sent to the seven governors in the surrounding states that Governor Cuomo is partnering with regarding the essential needs of the underserved population during this pandemic. African-Americans are more likely to die from this virus and are largely under-tested. The letter was well-written. I will be happy to share it with anyone who wishes to have a copy. The FIA Organization has multiple Zoom training sessions available. There is power in numbers and building relationships is the key to growing the membership in FIA and CITF. A survey was sent to the 30 members of the CITF but the response was very low and will be sent out again. Solitary confinement, prison reform, Police Accountability Board, and COVID-19 are the issues of interest. Voter turnout has been a concern and the approval of the absentee ballot last week should be a help. Ways to educate on how to fill out the ballot and partnering with area corporations to communicate the importance of completing the application are important issues. On a national front, there was a discussion about signing the petition demanding the resignation of the District Attorney in Georgia for not taking action in the case of the two men who shot a young black man. Over 140,000 signatures have already been received.

Carolyn – no meeting

Nominating Committee – Sue

Thank you to Mary Ellen Steele who will stay on Pastoral Council to fill the opening left by the untimely death of Eric Oswald.

Thank you to sub-committee: Carolyn, Karen, Jane, Mary Ellen and Cathy for their help in making all of the many phone contacts. There were 49 names submitted. To date, we have confirmed a total of seven nominees. They are: Mary Ann Borrelli, Kerry Flannery, Kay Kretschman, Kay Kurz, Mary Lochner, Anne Ross, and Shanna Sellers. (After the meeting another addition, Guy Kevin Reed.) There are four openings to be filled. The drawing is scheduled for Pentecost weekend, May 30-31. The posters that were to be used at the three sites will be stored for use next year.

Welcome Table Review

Pastoral Council members submitted their input on this issue previously to Ken and he compiled the information and forwarded it to each member. The Bookmark in the pews was generally considered to be a good idea. There was considerable discussion about what should be included in the Welcome Packet and the procedure for registering new parishioners. Some felt it very important that the information in the folder be limited to what the parish has to offer and that the Pastoral Council representative be welcoming and direct the person to make an appointment with someone at the Parish Office. Others felt that the any financial forms should be removed from the Welcome Packet but be available if someone should request one. This item was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

Closing Prayer – Judy

Meeting closed at 9:05 pm

Next meeting: June 9, 2020, 7 pm Opening Prayer: Cathy Closing Prayer: Jane

Respectfully submitted,

Goldie Rogers