

Parish Pastoral Council: Meeting Minutes

April 15th, 2021 – 7 to 8:30 PM

Attendance: Present – Fr. Peter, Sr. Madonna, Catherine Thompson, Rich Padova, Carla Burns, Deacon Lou Piazza, David York, Paula Dennett, Cindy Cookson, Marta Stiglin, Erik Eldracher and John Markiewicz.

Absent – Ken DeBenedictis, Maura Reardon and Deacon Mike Curren

Minutes

1. Opening Prayer – given by Sr. Madonna
2. Welcome – given by Fr. Peter
3. Review of Lenten Easter services – Fr. Peter reported the attendance figures for this year's Holy Week. From Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday, 660 people were in attendance; 535 people were in attendance on Palm Sunday, and the church ran out of palms. Some discussion about this ensued. Paula Dennett expressed concern about the fact that some people had to be turned away for Holy Week services due to COVID-related capacity limits. Sr. Madonna reported that those who were turned away were understanding about this.
4. What have we learned from COVID? Fr. Peter invited discussion about this topic, and various members expressed their views and opinions, which centered around the adaptability of the parishioners and the parish itself to COVID precautions and rules; and the helpfulness of AV equipment for live-streaming of Masses for those who prefer to not be present in church, such as some older parishioners but who nonetheless feel connected thanks to the technology. Continuing with the theme of connectivity, Paula Dennett wondered about the possibility of publicizing additional events in the bulletin. Fr. Peter took this under advisement.
5. Webinar – Fr. Peter asked if any members had participated in or viewed a recent Archdiocesan webinar, "How To Welcome Your Parishioners Back to Mass." Several members replied that they had with various comments. Fr. Peter thought this may present an opportunity for effective outreach, i.e. attracting new parishioners. Some pertinent questions, though, would be where do we get more parishioners, who are they, and if/how do we utilize established parishioners. Further discussion to be continued.
6. Parish Pastoral Council membership for 2021 – 2022 – Fr. Peter reported that there may be some challenges next month with the annual recruitment and selection of new PPC members due to pandemic-related issues, i.e. getting the word out when not everyone is attending Mass in-person (and perhaps not reading the electronic bulletin), and even if parishioners do know about the openings, they may not be interested in serving due to issues with having virtual meetings, etc... Some discussion ensued about whether, in light of the above, we should still try to stimulate interest in serving on the PPC or just maintain the current membership for the time being. Deacon Lou suggested that even if we went ahead and had the annual recruitment and selection of new PPC members next month, they would only be attending the June meeting before summer break, therefore why not postpone the annual recruitment and selection until September. This also allows more time for any improvements with the pandemic so that by September we will hopefully know if the meetings will still be virtual, or if we can resume in-person meetings.

7. Next PPC Meeting – the date for the next PPC meeting was set for May 13th.
8. Addendum – before closing the meeting, and as something to think about, Fr. Peter reported briefly on the intricacies of re-opening the church to normal routines and capacities, post-COVID.
9. Closing Prayer – given by Fr. Peter

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by:
Richard Padova, Secretary
Parish Pastoral Council
April 21st, 2021