

# St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council

## Meeting Minutes

### January 4, 2022

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#### **Attendees:**

X Kathy Batdorf	X Maddie Frick	X Ellie Gordon	X Nikki Gorski
X Gloria Morales	X Patrick Perkins	X Sally Raphel	Isabel Sans
X Cynthia Santiago	X Gabriele Segletes	X Diane Traube	X Denise Walsh
X Jim Wilson	Deacon Chuck Hoppe	X Deacon Carlos Morales	Deacon Jim Sullivan
X Msgr Richard Woy	X Martine Uveges		

**The Zoom Meeting came to order at: 7:05pm**

**Opening Prayer:** Diane led everyone in the Pastoral Council Prayer

**Approval of Minutes:** Nikki motioned to approve the October minutes; Gabi seconded; all approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Christmas Around the Pastorate update:** This was the first time for Christmas Around the Pastorate. Due to COVID, parishioners evenly split between the St Francis de Sales (SFdS) and Prince of Peace (PoP) parishes carried statues up to the altar to create the nativity scene. Since the new Music Director, Timur Mustakimov, was recently hired, there was no choir, though the congregation of ~75 sang hymns led by cantor, Tami Zavislan. Larry Shannahan suggested that the Ravens game contributed to the smaller turnout, though more parents possibly would have attended if the children's and youth choirs were singing. Much food was left over afterward. Next year both parishes will be involved again as well as the choirs. A suggestion was made to move it up to 4p to accommodate seniors who do not drive at night.

**Membership:** Diane noted that there are two vacant Elected positions including the one for Martine, who is at the end of her term. Three in Selected positions are at the end of their term: Patrick (Liturgy), Nikki (Faith Formation), and Jim W (Stewardship). Diane reminded everyone that Cynthia volunteered to be the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Sally commented that her term is ending in 2022, though according to the by-laws, she can serve one more 2-year term. Msgr. Woy suggested to hold off on elections and have council members remain in their positions until after COVID and a new pastor is assigned, which may be in the Spring, and not necessarily for another full year. Jim W fully agreed and pointed out it may be harder to find people to fill positions with the COVID surge.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Synod 2021-2023:** Diane began by saying that regional listening sessions are to be held in Jan/Feb with feedback to be gathered by mid-March. Jim W said it sounds similar to listening sessions held over the last 20 years. Is the Diocese looking for outcomes? Msgr. Woy responded that it is sometimes hard to define. Pope Francis is attempting to de-clericize the church. A synod is ancient and a way to get together and listen to each other about what faith means to them and what are their concerns. The

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Holy Spirit is most important there to lead the group to discernment. The church moves slowly, not in great leaps. Msgr. Woy said it has not been an easy year. This is an opportunity to talk about the parish and what the hopes are for the parish and the church overall. This would be helpful to the new pastor.

Diane said there was a kickoff Mass in October by Archbishop Lori, and she has looked at the documents on the Diocese website. She said our Pastoral Council will lead communications with the parish. Patrick said the Pope is looking for openness in dialogue for all, and those in leadership should not lead what to do, but should listen and filter through what is shared. Diane saw training on the website for leaders and note takers on how to help them be open, how to gather comments, and how to move forward. Ellie saw the short videos by Archbishop Lori and Bishop Lewandowski, who want to invite non-churchgoers; how could we do that? Diane acknowledged this.

Diane related that the timeline asks that notes from listening session be submitted before Lent, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, though the timeline may be fluid. Msgr. Woy said the bishops only received information in Sept 2021 to start in Oct 2021. We should probably move with 'cautious haste'.

Sally asked what the Pastorate Committee might do and when. Diane thought the parish efforts would be kept separate, and Msgr. Woy agreed. The pastorate may come out of this dialogue, perhaps in the Fall. It takes about a year to organize. Msgr. Woy said he would speak with Fr. Jim Proffitt, Director of Clergy Personnel, and Msgr. Jay O'Connor to learn more about the pastorate.

Diane asked who could lead the Pastoral Council to pull together documents, advertise, plan listening sessions, and identify leaders and note takers. Linda Midwig can help with administrative tasks, local websites, and community outreach. Ellie, Cynthia, Deacon Carlos, and Gloria could help communicate with the Spanish speaking people. Msgr. Woy will ask Bishop Lewandowski, who likes coming for the 1pm Mass, to help with the Spanish community.

Msgr. Woy offered that there are some natural groups that we can tap into, such as the Knights of Columbus, the Seniors group, the Pastoral Council, and Religious Education families. He wants to hear from young families, parents of young children, and couples. Diane asked him to clarify, and he said it is 'both/and' – to listen to those in existing groups and to hear from random people. Jim W said people are comfortable speaking among people they know, such as those within the Pillars of the parish. We could ask people what their questions are at town halls and at the back of church after Mass. Patrick related that facilitators and note takers were brought in early to help with the Alpha and Christ Life sessions. Cynthia suggested a session could be after Donut Sunday, since it would be easier with people already there. Diane shared that with the 'One Thing' event, the youth occupied the young children for the parents.

Diane said leaders need to identify facilitators and note takers and communications and organize listening sessions. Jim W and Cynthia suggested there be a small focus group to do this. Diane said she, Cynthia, and Denise could coordinate the communications. Denise thought she would help organize and go to each group in her Connections role. Patrick could organize listening sessions. Martine could

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collate the notes from the listening sessions. Denise said the facilitators need to be comfortable with what we are trying to do. Patrick will tap into facilitators from the Alpha program. Ellie is willing to facilitate and work with Patrick to identify facilitators and note takers. Diane Lewis is working with the youth to speak their mind. Denise would work with them to organize listening sessions. Diane will connect with Linda and Cynthia regarding a communications plan to all in the parish community.

Diane asked for updates at status meetings and that by February there be a plan for implementation.

Msgr. Woy asked that there be marketing to reach out to those who have dropped away; Cynthia offered to do this. Diane suggested a session around a fire pit; Ellie suggested an outing to appeal to the youth. Denise suggested Maddie help with the youth. Maddie said there are 5 in her group who can help with the youth. Msgr. Woy said he can leave a Spanish-speaking packet for Ellie. Deacon Carlos said there has been a Spanish Faith group for years that could have a listening session.

Diane summarized that for the focused listening sessions:

- Patrick could identify facilitators and note takers
- Ellie and Cynthia could work with the Spanish groups
- Maddie and Diane Lewis could work with the youth
- Denise could work on having communications go out as needed
- Diane and Cynthia could work with Linda Midwig on a communication plan for the parish and the community

Diane said the goal is to send updates to the Pastoral Council by MLK day regarding progress made, things identified, and to provide feedback to Msgr. Woy, who is available to help in any way.

#### **CLERGY ITEMS and UPDATES:**

**Questions:** Sally asked some follow up questions regarding items in the October meeting minutes.

- *Who is the Parish Corporator?* – Msgr. Woy said this position was not filled.
- *Where is the building needs assessment?* – Msgr. Woy said it is in his inbox and will need to be reviewed with the Finance Committee to understand the needs and to put together a plan to prioritize and address.
- *Will there be a Donut Sunday?* – Msgr. Woy said Donut Sunday and all social events (including bingo) are canceled, at least in the month of January, due to COVID.

**Clergy Items and Updates:** Msgr. Woy provided these updates.

- *Spanish Mass* – Deacon Carlos shared that Bishop Bruce Lewandowski has been a great blessing to say the Spanish Mass Sundays at 1p and hear confessions prior to Mass.

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- *Pastoral Council meeting* – Msgr. Woy thanked everyone for the warm welcome at the parish and to all, especially Patrick, for Advent and Christmas liturgies. This will be reviewed at the Liturgy Committee meeting next week.
- *New Deacon* – Msgr. Woy announced that Deacon Victor Ortega began at SFdS on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. He and his wife and son live in Bel Air after moving from Spokane, WA, where there was a large Spanish community. He will have his own ministry in Parish Life. He has experience as a hospital Chaplain. He may help with the homebound and the sick.
- *Young Families* – Msgr. Woy is concerned about the youth and young families.
- *Lent, Easter* – Msgr. Woy announced that Lent begins on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with Easter on April 17<sup>th</sup>. He suggested having a parish mission in Lent where someone would preach at all the weekend Masses. There could be a camp fire Sunday evening for the youth, and on Mon, Tues, and Wed evenings there could be a simple meal followed by a prayer session. Patrick shared that we regularly would have Lenten missions with Fr. Mike Schleupner and Fr. Chuck Wible, but not more recently. They would be a mission or an adoration / Penance service. This topic is already on the agenda for the upcoming Liturgy Committee meeting.
- *Questions? Advice?* – Msgr. Woy asked if the Council members have any questions or advice for him.
  - o Ellie suggested Msgr. Woy come to the Sunday 1p Mass and say hello to everyone.
  - o Jim W commented that it has been great having Msgr. Woy, who has hit the ground running. He thanked Msgr. Woy for being here and setting us up for the next transition.
  - o Nikki said it has been a challenge since we have stepped back from in person connections. It would be great if Msgr. Woy could greet people when they come and go for Middle School and High School Religious Education, even if he could join the Zoom sessions. Msgr. Woy had thought to talk with the Religious Education people about connecting with the youth and their families.

#### **Comments:**

- Nikki, who coordinates the money counters, announced that the teams will be moving back to counting again in 2022. There are now 4 teams of 2 people (down from 5 teams of 3 people). She asked if anyone knows of anyone who could help and to let her know, so the parish staff can review them first.
- Ellie thanked the council for inviting her to this meeting. Diane thanked her for helping with the Synod efforts.

**Meeting Adjourned** by Diane at 8:29pm

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Msgr Woy led everyone in saying the Glory Be, and gave everyone his blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Uveges, Secretary