

St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2021

Attendees:

X Jim Wilson	X Kathy Batdorf	Maddie Frick	X Liz Gonzalez
X Nikki Gorski	x Oscar Molina	x Gloria Morales	Patrick Perkins
X Sally Raphel	X Isabel Sans	X Cynthia Santiago	X Gabriele Segletes
X Diane Traube	Dan Zankowitz	X Deacon Chuck Hoppe	X Deacon Carlos Morales
X Deacon Jim Sullivan	X Fr. Jaime Garcia	X Martine Uveges	

To celebrate when we can all meet in person again, Fr. Jaime said he will cook a meal for the Pastoral Council! He rattled off various possible entrees, and everyone's mouths were watering in anticipation!

The Meeting came to order at: 7:08pm

Opening Prayer: Jim W led everyone in the Pastoral Council Prayer

Approval of Minutes: Kathy motioned to approve the February minutes; Cynthia seconded; all approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pastoral Council Officers – March Elections: Jim W explained how to use the chat feature in the Zoom meeting to have a confidential vote. Clergy can neither hold office nor vote for officers. As it turned out, there was only one person nominated for each officer position, so no voting was necessary. Sally nominated Diane Traube to be the chair, and Diane accepted. Martine shared that Patrick nominated Cynthia to be vice chair, and Cynthia declined. Martine nominated Kathy, and she declined. Diane nominated Martine, and Martine was willing to be secretary again, unless someone else wanted that office. With no one else interested, Martine will be secretary. Diane nominated Gabriele for Vice Chair, and Gabriele accepted. Liz said the new Pastoral Council officers will be posted in the March 13th and 14th bulletin. Jim W offered his help with the transition to the new executive committee.

Parish Life: Cynthia reported (see report attached): Cynthia obtained updates from Parish Life points of contact for multiple groups.

Bingo (updates from Larry Shannahan and Susanne Wilson): No Bingo has been held during the pandemic. A meeting will be needed to prepare and reorganize before returning to Bingo, as many volunteers will not be returning. The recommendation is not to recommence Bingo until COVID restrictions are lifted. These restrictions would involve expenses for Plexiglas, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), disinfecting, and a bingo computer battery, and revenue would be reduced due to eliminating tables for distancing of players.

Cub and Boy Scouts (update from Lisa Scowden): They meet occasionally by Zoom. Scout activity is minimal; no camping trips. The primary concern is a drop in participation and the inability to recruit new members. Most in a Den of Cub Scouts/Webelos will not be crossing to Boy Scouts due to

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the inconsistency of meeting. The major complaint from parents is that children are on Zoom all day with school, and they do not want to be on a Zoom meeting for Scouts.

Girl Scouts (update from Diane Lewis): Some troops are meeting virtually.

Knights of Columbus (update from Mike Walsh): They have been meeting with limited attendance via Teams on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, and the officers are meeting on the 2nd Monday. The Knights have been able to conduct Pit Beef (including this weekend March 7th), Wreaths across America, the Remembrance Mass, and the Lenten chowder (on sale now for pickup March 12th and 26th). They support the church with some ushers and Cantors during Mass and with some financial donations. The Knights have had limited growth due to the pandemic and filling the new officers for the new fraternal year.

Knights of Columbus Ladies (update from Denise Walsh): They have continued to meet monthly via Zoom. The Ladies have hosted a raffle and spaghetti dinner to raise money and received donations from parishioners and Wegmans to be able to donate to charities as well as our church. The concern is our Ladies in the Auxiliary who struggle to get online and join the Zoom calls. The event this month is "Letters to our Seniors", where notes and word search books will be sent to folks in the Ladies Auxiliary, Seniors Club, Men's Council and Lorian in Bel Air who have not felt comfortable coming to church or leaving their home. The Ladies led by Anne Mangones are hosting a "Drive-thru" Baby Shower for BirthRight on Sat, March 13, 9-11a. Items needed, such as maternity and baby clothes and supplies, have been listed on a flyer in the bulletin for the past few weekends.

Seniors Club (updates from Phyllis Pahutski and Gloria Millard): They have not been able to meet nor have any activities this year. Members have attempted to stay in touch by email and phone, keeping each other updated on news and prayer requests. The officers met by phone and were able to give a farewell gift to Fr. Jack.

Shadow Players Theatre Company (update from Patrick Perkins): They have been suspended since COVID began in March 2020. The Board of Directors have continued to meet several times in 2020. A radio show was recorded in Summer 2020, which will be ready to release in Summer 2021. They are planning a Fall show, if all goes well with the COVID vaccination campaign.

Jim commented that people want to get back together, but safety is paramount.

Small Group Discussions: Jim W asked if people met in their small group and asked for their feedback.

Nikki, Sally, Patrick, and Oscar met: Nikki said it was nice to meet. Their group's concern was that people still connect in this time. Nikki wanted to help the Seniors Club to stay connected. Sally agreed that reaching out is needed now; a phone call is the surest way to let people know someone cares.

Kathy, Martine, Gabriele, Cynthia, and Maddie met: Kathy enjoyed the small group. It was nice to hear what the youth are doing. They talked about gardening and weeding that was and may still be needed.

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Gabriele commented about the poor audio and video quality of the live-streaming of the Mass. Fr. Jaime said it would be cost prohibitive to have the equipment for good quality. Liz noted that equipment changes, including a camera donated by a parishioner, have improved the quality from what it was in early 2020.

Jim and Isabel met: Jim said he really enjoyed his call with Isabel. Isabel talked about the youth and how the pandemic has affected the youth. The core group has remained, though they lost a few seniors. The pandemic has affected how they can draw people in.

Jim asked if people wanted to do small group discussions again, and everyone agreed. Every other month was preferred to monthly. Martine had drawn up 5 groupings where different people could meet. She will send out the grouping for the next small group discussion to be held in May.

5-Year Plan: Jim W noted that only a few minor changes were made to the 5-Year Plan. It is ready to be published. Martine will send to Liz the 5-Year Plan, meeting minutes for Nov, Jan, and Feb, and updates, including the new officers, to the Pastoral Council web page on the SFdS web site.

NEW BUSINESS:

Harford County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine: Kathy related that she met with Danny Cajigas and Fr. Jaime and pulled a list of those >65 in the parish and compared that with the Health Department. There are 277 people, or ~220 homes to contact to help them sign up to get their vaccination. Fr. Jaime asked for members of the Pastoral Council to volunteer to call these people. The calls need to be made from the parish, since people's personal information cannot leave the parish premises. Sally and Nikki volunteered, though Nikki said it may not be possible for those who work during the day to come to the parish to call. Diane said there are some KofC ladies who could help; she will ask Denise Walsh. Volunteers need to contact Liz (9a-2:30p), so she can space out the schedule.

Prayer Line: Liz shared there are two prayer lines, and one line has been reduced to two people. She asked if anyone would like to join this prayer line. Gabriele happily offered.

PPP: Fr. Jaime shared that SFdS filed for and received the second PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) monies for \$135,000 which goes to pay the staff. Jim W noted that collections are down and this PPP money really helps, even though it is for 3 months only.

Vacation: Fr. Jaime announced he will be on vacation the first week of April after a year without one.

Meeting Adjourned by Jim W at 8:20pm

CLOSING PRAYER: Deacon Chuck said a close prayer and gave everyone his blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Uveges, Secretary