

## Evangelization Commission/Welcoming Committee Meeting Notes

May 19, 2020

**Present:** Deacon Don Esler, Sharon Miller, Sandy Rogala, Connie Andres, Gail Fisher, Judy Wyzlic, Leeanne Scott, Diane Geverink

The meeting began at approximately 7:25 p.m., as there were some technological problems with signing on to Zoom. Regrettably for this reason, some may have been unable to gain access to this meeting.

**Coordinator's Comments and Group Discussion** - Deacon Don said it had been a while since he met with Evangelization Commission and the first time with the Welcoming Committee since the coronavirus outbreak. He thought it time to meet, even briefly, just to touch base with one another and talk about the new protocols which will take place when public Mass at St. Edith resumes the week-end of May 30/31<sup>st</sup>. We proceeded by each sharing what we have been doing during this quarantine time, personally and within our own families. Most have been lying low, reading, finishing bible studies, doing some home projects, some engaged in the care of family members, and finding more time for personal prayer and reflection of what we are to learn from this unprecedented time.

**Deacon Don's Comments** - Shared some information what St. Edith Mass will look like. Fr. Jim wants to approach this opening process very slowly. Parishioners will need to reserve a place, via the parish website or call the office to reserve. The first Masses will have a very limited number of spots available. For this being the same reality for other parishes, Fr. Jim is asking St. Edith parishioners to not attend Mass at another parish. Because it is summer time, Fr. Jim wants to try to have the Masses outdoors, yet have a plan to be inside in the case of inclement weather. For outside, Mass will be in the parking lot near the school gym. Parishioners will need to bring their own chair to sit. Spaces will be marked on the parking lot for appropriate distancing. Family members who reside in the same household may sit together. Everyone who attends Mass is required to wear a mask, including children over two years of age.

Protocol for distribution of Holy Communion is still being worked out. Eucharist will be offered to the congregation only in the form of the host, and is requested that all receive the host in the palm of the hand. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will have special PPE. Father will explain exact procedure at the beginning of the Masses.

The Mass schedule will remain as it is currently scheduled, except the first Sunday of the month 5:00 p.m. is discontinued until further notice. Archdiocese of Detroit Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass through September 6, 2020. Those deemed vulnerable and should not feel obligated to attend, are those age 65 or older; or have an underlying physical condition such as high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, or taking care of an aged/infirm family member; or do not feel well, i.e., cold, cough, little fever, etc. And, regardless of any reason, if an individual does not feel comfortable attending Mass, the person should just stay home; no judgment. Masses will still continue to be video recorded and available for viewing during this time.

The question was asked, since many ushers and welcome committee members are in the vulnerable age group, would there be enough people willing and able to serve at the Masses. Deacon Don shared that there are and many younger adults have stepped up and are volunteering for ushers and EMEs. It was discussed that this may be one of the “silver-linings” of the pandemic, that it would give younger Catholics an opportunity to think more about stepping up and becoming involved in the parish. Therefore, if you know of any younger Catholic that you could encourage to become involved in such a ministry, this is the perfect time to invite.

Offertory collection will not be done by basket. There will be some stationary receptacle in place for that purpose, and parishioners are still encouraged to give by on-line giving or dropping in the parish office mailbox.

Deacon Don shared that there continues to be discussion on how to do the First Communion celebration and bring RCIA candidates into the Church. He also said he needs to figure out how to do Baptisms. Deacon was reminded that there are still volunteers willing to write the personal notes of welcome, which includes the Rosary and pamphlet for how to pray for the newly baptized. Deacon Don shared how funerals are being conducted, or if parishioners wanted to wait until bigger gatherings can occur. There is one wedding scheduled for June, which is a con-validation of an earlier civil marriage.

As far as Welcoming, the committee will not be signing up to do “welcoming” before or after Mass. Deacon Don asked if all had the current parish directory. He requested if any person on Welcoming or Evangelization is willing, please use the directory to make contact with parishioners who are older and live alone. Tip: If you have a pictorial directory, this may be a

useful aide. Just check up on them, see if there is anything they need, or do they need anyone to do grocery shopping for them. If so, we need to call the parish office with that information. Deacon Don said parishioners, both older and newly registered, have expressed they appreciate the calls of concern/welcome. If anyone needs a directory, let Deacon Don know so he can have one sent to you.

***Next Meeting – To Be Determined.***

Meeting closed with prayer led by Deacon Don and adjourned 8:25 p.m.

Written by: Diane Geverink