

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 13, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Fr. Jim McNulty, Mark Tuttle, John Brady, Denise Brady, Terri Field, Geoff Turbiak, Deacon Don, Sharon Miller, Deb Beaman, Jane DeRoo, Elisabeth Johnston, Alex Mager

ABSENTEES: Joe Bertrand, Renee Billotto, Megan Szczyпка Wolschleger

- I. OPENING PRAYER – Elisabeth
- II. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES - Approved
- III. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS
 1. Thanks to everybody for our last meeting. Being able to open up, share thoughts, views, ideas is what the PC is all about. Thank you!!!
 2. We spent a long-time last month, so don’t want to spend a lot of our time tonight “rehashing” what we discussed last month. Thanks to Fr. Jim, he has done a very good job of taking the thoughts and ideas given last month and made some good changes.
 3. Some items were received to be shared with the group. These are in 2 general categories, Observances from other churches and feedback/questions from St. Edith parishioners. Starting with Observances from other Churches first.

Observances from Other Churches

- a. A “greeting” of fellow parishioners at the beginning of Mass, similar to what we did before COVID.
- b. An announcement has been made to inform parishioners at other churches that they have not had any COVID cases. If we have not had any reported cases, can we make such an announcement?
- c. Prior to beginning of Mass, the priest shares a simple personal story why he loves being a priest. Examples are uniting couples in marriage, providing comfort to families at funerals, accepting a child into the Catholic Church at baptism.
- d. Publish Bible Verse Isaiah 41:10: “Do not fear, for I am with you: do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand.” It was noted that a portion of this verse was on our Parish sign on Newburgh Road.

Feedback/Questions from St. Edith Parishioners

- a. Like the recent video from Fr. Jim. Can this be reposted again? Can this be added to our website homepage? Is it available on the website for people who do not use Facebook? Fr. Jim noted that there was a “snail mail” letter sent to any parishioner who does not have an email on file with the Parish with this same information.

- b. Thanks for making face shields optional for Eucharistic Ministers, it appears more inviting and welcoming for those receiving the Eucharist.
- c. Thank you for inviting the use of the altar server to carry the Cross and the procession.
- d. Thank you for resuming the “socially distanced” sign of peace.
- e. Mask usage for lectors and cantors. Some state it sounds muffled and hard to hear.
- f. Are masks necessary considering social distancing is in place? Yes masks are necessary.
- g. Does the recent Michigan Supreme Court decision regarding the Governor’s Executive Orders have any impact on the AOD’s guidelines? Fr. Jim noted that the AOD sent out a number of emails addressing this issue (he received about 5 of them) and there really isn’t any change.
- h. Has Fr. Jim and the CYO athletic directors/board made any decision on winter sports? Fr. Jim noted that he has met with the athletic directors, and if all continues to go well, the plan is to have basketball this year. However, we will not have the Thanksgiving Tournament this year.
- i. What impact on St. Edith does the newly formed “families of parishes” with Our Lady of Victory, St. Colette and St. Kenneth? To be discussed in Fr. Jim’s comments below.

Post Meeting Note – Fr. Jim will review the above Observances and Feedback with the Worship Commission at their next meeting.

IV. FR. JIM’S COMMENTS

- a. Families of Parishes
 - i. This is not clustering
 - ii. There have been 4 meetings with all the priests. This will be rolled out slowly. A number of things are not known, and will be figured out as we move forward with the process.
 - iii. The pastors of St. Edith, St. Kenneth, St. Colette and Our Lady of Victory (OLV) talked and thought we would be a good fit as a Parish Family. The pastors wrote a letter to the AOD with this request. It is still unknown if this request will be accepted or if the AOD will have other ideas.
 - iv. The announcement of the “families” will be made around the end of November.
 - v. This is not aimed at closing parishes.
 - vi. Currently, the AOD has 246 active priests. It is projected that in 10 years, there will be only 158 active priests. Therefore, the need for this movement.
 - vii. There are 2 models being discussed:
 - 1. Model 1
 - a. All current pastors will continue to be a pastor in the family.
 - b. One of those pastors in the family will be considered to be the moderator of the family to make the decisions for the family.
 - c. There will be a family Parish Council made up of all the pastors plus 2 members from each individual parish’s pastoral council.

- d. There will be a family business manager. This will take away those duties from the individual pastors.
 - e. There will be some sharing in other ministries, such as RCIA, that could be combined into 1 RCIA for the entire family instead of each parish having individual RCIA programs.
 - 2. Model 2
 - a. There will only be 1 pastor in the family. All the other priests will be considered Associates.
- viii. Current thought is that most families will start as Model 1. However, as time goes on and the reduction in priests continues, they will move to Model 2.
- ix. This plan, in the long run, takes decisions out of the hands of the AOD and moves them into the Parish Family.
- x. A 2 Phase implementation:
 - 1. 1st group of Family of Parishes will start in July 2021
 - 2. 2nd group will start in July 2022
 - 3. We don't know what group St. Edith will fall into.
- b. Survey – No Update

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VICARIATE – No Update

B. CHRISTIAN SERVICE

a. They have not had their first meeting yet; it is scheduled for November.

b. New Dawn membership is very low.

c. Blood Drive exceed expectations

d. Holiday Outreach

i. Thanksgiving – the current plan is to have a non-perishable food drive for Loaves & Fishes

ii. Christmas – 2 programs:

1. Instead of the Giving Tree with different items, they are looking at asking for Gift Cards from various places, such as Target, Meijer, etc. these gift cards will be sent to Hope Clinic for them to distribute to the needy.

2. Though we will not have the Giving Tree, parishioners wishing to donate non-perishable food or toys may do so through the Livonia Goodfellows with their drop off at Dickinson Center. Details will be published in the bulletin.

iii. It was noted that we should be sharing information about the charity we are working with, so our parishioners know where their gifts are going.

- e. The Parish gave out numerous gift cards to Meijer, especially in July, when people had been laid off or lost jobs due to COVID.

C. EDUCATION

- a. School is going well. Very pleased with the staff and students.
- b. SEPA Auction fund raiser just started on Monday.
- c. RCIA Open House attracted 3 people.
- d. Religious Formation is being held remotely
- e. Walking with a Purpose has started and going well.

D. EVANGELIZATION

- a. They had their first meeting of the year after our PC meeting. No formal agenda for the meeting. It was informal get together to discuss moving forward due to COVID.
- b. Greeters have started back at the 5pm Saturday Mass

E. SENIORS – No Update

F. WORSHIP

- a. They met after the PC Meeting last month. They discussed at length the items discussed at the PC meeting and what could be safely put back in the Mass. Numerous changes were adopted.
- b. Music Ministry is adding back the other music groups, such as In Praise, etc. Heather is working on coordinating getting that set up so that all musicians are socially distant and safe.

G. Finance

- a. The school budget was for 172 children. Our actual number is 187 so that is very good.
- b. School expenses are up due to PPE purchases. We received a \$10,000 donation from a parishioner to buy PPE for the school. Thank you very much!!!
- c. Organ Replacement has been approved by the Finance Council and Fr. Jim. It will cost approximately \$108,000, so it has to be approved by the AOD. Fr. Jim sent it in a few weeks ago, and it should be on their agenda for their October meeting, which will be held later in the month.
 - i. They hope, assuming approval by AOD, that the organ will be done by July 2021.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. A discussion on how we can continue thoughtful ways on what we can do, not what we can't do, due to COVID. Getting back to normal, even with little things, makes people feel better.
- b. With cold weather quickly approaching, based on the AOD guidelines, how many people can we have for meetings on parish property. Fr. Jim stated that all the meeting rooms, parish hall and gym were measured and calculated.
 - i. All Meeting Rooms – 10 people or less
 - ii. Parish Hall – 45 People
 - iii. Gym – 60 People

- c. Terri reported about the streaming and recording of Mass which was discussed at last month's meeting.
 - i. We can stream and simulcast in the hall, so if we have an overflow of people in the church, we can use the hall and simulcast the Mass.
 - ii. We don't need to stream and record, because once it is streamed, it is out on Facebook to be viewed at any time.
 - iii. Fr. Jim noted that people don't need a Facebook account to stream the Mass. They can go to our website, click on the link, and it will take them to the streaming Mass, whether they have a Facebook account or not.
- d. A discussion on whether we can consider to bring back the 1st Sunday 5pm Mass. It was noted the OLGc has Sunday evening Mass every week, and it was well attended. Fr. Jim stated that we need to remember there is only one of him to do all the Masses. The older, retired priests are not leaving their community to say Masses due to COVID. This makes it more difficult to add Masses.
- e. A question was asked if Heather is still announcing that masks must be worn, covering mouth and nose, while in church. Fr. Jim stated that she was. It was noted that some people were not complying with this and not keeping their masks up over their noses. It was also noted, that even though Fr. Jim gives instructions on how we at St. Edith should line up, receive the Eucharist, then turn to the side and lower their mask to consume the Eucharist, some people are just lowering their masks while walking in line. It was noted that maybe some of those people lowering their mask while in line are coming from a different church that uses this method for receiving the Eucharist. There really isn't anything that can be done except to remind people as currently is being done.

VII. NOVEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING – Please note the meeting will be held in the Parish Hall beginning at 7:00pm

- a. OPENING PRAYER – Megan
- b. CLOSING PRAYER - John

VIII. CLOSING PRAYER – Deb