

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
January 21, 2021 – (ZOOM MEETING)
PRINCE OF PEACE – 7PM

- I. Opening prayer (Evangelization Commission)
- II. Roll Call: Fr. Ken, Deacon Jeff, Brenda Bertram, Annette Lyons, Dave Schnier, Ed Kross, LuAnn Farrell, Theresa Williams, Cindy Holliday, Tom Streveler, Dean Stone, Marla Schultz, Odelia Schrunk, Nancy Mathena, Carmen Soesbe, Anna Current, Anna Lorenzen
Absent: Father Stack, Gloria Marcos
Excused: Nancy Peart
- III. Approval of Minutes from September Meeting –approved
- IV. Approval of Agenda – 1st Tom Streveler - approved
- V. Commission Reports
 - A. Worship & Prayer Commission – Written report submitted – (Cindy Holliday)
 - Masses went real well at Christmas time. The hall was not used for overflow during the 5:00 mass but they were ready to go if needed. The attendance for the Christmas Masses were down.
 - The new schedules for Communion, etc. for the next four months will be coming out soon, look for them in your email.
 - More music has been added to the Masses and a lot of positive comments were received about this.
 - They are trying to figure out how to distribute the ashes on Ash Wednesday, probably will not be able to use the traditional way, plans for that are still in process.
 - Father Ken reported that attendance was down throughout the Dioceses. Due to the more contagious strain of the virus having a larger impact, we might not see much of an improvement for a time to come.
 - Brenda reported that there are over 150 viewers of the online Mass every weekend. The top number of viewers so far was 290.
 - B. Evangelization Commission – Written report submitted. (Theresa Williams)
 - About half of the books, "I Heard God Laugh" were distributed at Christmas. There are approximately 255 books left. A discussion was held on how to distribute those in the future, possibly hospitals and nursing homes. The stamp on the inside of the book includes the Parish name, address, phone and website. These books will be located in the office for anyone to use.
 - They discussed Emmaus and how to promote that more.
 - Brainstorming ideas have started on how to get people back to mass and will continue at the next meeting.
 - C. Faith Formation Commission – Written report submitted. (Marla Schultz)
 - Nothing else to report at this time.
 - Father Ken added that the Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation will be celebrated on Jan. 23rd & 30th for kids that have not made it so far.
 - D. Family Life Commission – (Odelia Schrunk)
 - The Family Life Commission did not have a meeting this month.
 - Two people did sign up at the ministry fair to join this commission.

E. Justice & Peace Commission – Written report submitted. (Tom Streveler)

- They are working on something more concrete to propose for the element of study, pray and act.
- The committee is looking for virtual substitutes for Peace Soup which has always been a way to promote justice and peace, educate people and pray.

F. Parish Life Commission – Written report submitted. (Dean Stone)

- The Knights of Columbus tried to keep their Rosary promotion going between the months of October and December. In the next quarter, they would like to get the Rosary going again.
- A perpetual memorial for those that have passed away was held at The Church of the Visitation and is on our website.
- They are having an issue on knowing who might be making their 1st Communion to get them Sacramental gifts.
- A contribution was made to the Pregnancy Center in the month of December.
- In January, they will be involved in a Life Novena between the 21st and the 29th. Members should have received an email about this. It will be a daily prayer program during those nine days. If any committee is interested in this, Dean will send you the website.
- There will be a virtual March for Life on the 29th. This is a state wide program, if you are interested, Dean will provide more information.
- A modified version of the fish fry will start on the 19th of February. It will be a distribution at the entrance of the hall. More information to follow.
- Father Ken reported that the Vocations Committee will be having a local Pizza with the Padres Day and Spaghetti with the Sisters Day. They will be inviting the Junior High and High School Kids to learn about religious vocations.

G. Stewardship Commission – Written report submitted. (Nancy Mathena)

- No meeting last month.
- The stewardship renewal was down this year.
- Dave Schnier said they will be tweaking the form for next year to make it clearer.

VI. Other Reports

A. Finance Council – (Ed Kross)

- There are two new members to the Finance Council; Dave Lehmkuhl and James Nelson.
- December was a very good month for the Parish. They ended up with about a \$30,000 income. This was attributed to year end giving, extra Christmas donations and the envelope income has been holding up remarkably well.
- They reviewed the Annual Diocesan Appeal. This year our goal is \$96,000 and there is \$92,000 in pledges.
- The principle balance on our church hall is \$319,000.
- Ed encourages everyone to subscribe to the Catholic Messenger. The Parish is billed by the Dioceses for “X” number of subscriptions, and the Parish has to make up the difference if not purchased. There will be a complimentary issue coming in the near future that you can subscribe from. Please support and read the Catholic Messenger.

B. Latino Ministry Representative – (Carmen Soesbe)

- They are very happy to have the Spanish Mass back. There were 47 people in attendance in December and 42 in January.
- Father Dennis is the new priest that will be leading the Spanish Mass.

- C. Principal of Prince of Peace School – (Father Ken)
- They are looking for a new Principal, Nancy Peart will be retiring.
 - Catholic Schools Week is coming up at the end of the month.
 - Father Stack is teaching Religion to the 6th & 7th graders. Father Ken and Brenda are meeting with seniors. They are starting a new form of youth ministry to chat with them one on one to see how they are handling the stresses of being seniors in high school and how that connects with our Catholic faith.
 - The Irish Auction will be a virtual event this year.
- D. Diocesan Pastoral Council Representative – (LuAnn Farrell)
- They have not met since November, they are planning on having a meeting in March.
 - The Bishop is trying to figure out what to do with the number of priests we will have in 10 years. Please pray for these vocations.
 - There has been a committee formed to address the problems at Assumption High School on racism.
- E. Sisters of St. Francis Representative – (Sister Kathy Holland)
- The Canticle is still on lockdown.
 - They are doing a lot Zoom meetings on the issue of racism.
 - The sisters at the Canticle have received Covid vaccinations.
- F. Director of Faith Formation – (Brenda Bertram)
- Parents are continuing to be supported by our mentors in the parish each month for those who registered for the Religious Education Program.
 - 1st Reconciliation for 2nd graders will be January 23rd and January 30th.
 - Due to Covid restrictions, most retreats, conferences, etc. have been cancelled, unless offered by Zoom or some form of Zoom.
 - There will be opportunities in the bulletin from the Dioceses for adult Faith Formation.
 - Summer Conferences are still going to happen at this time in another form, Brenda will be looking for students that would be willing to attend.
 - The National Catholic Youth Conference is meeting to see if this will take place this year.
- G. Youth Representative – (Anna Current)
- The 1st Parish Religious Education Confirmation meeting was held on December 30th. They will continue to meet on the last Wednesday of every month. Deacon Jeff, Andy Hardigan and Brenda are helping out with this. Anna and Veronica Ramirez will also try to help out with the kids all through Zoom, using Decision Point Books and videos.
- H. Parish Business Administrator – (Dave Schnier)
- The 2020 contribution letters have been mailed out for tax purposes.
 - The blue bucket collection has been very helpful, people have continued to give to this cause.
 - There was a building inspection this past week. The biggest concern is slips, trips and falls. We need to keep an eye out for this and let ushers, etc. know about these.
- I. Deacon – (Jeff)
- The Holiday Network was very successful as well as the food boxes that were sent out. Deacon Jeff gave a big shout out to Amanda Eberhart for doing such a wonderful job.
 - Informational Referral and the Benevolent Society have combined. They are always willing to give us some help when needed.
 - There will be a blood drive at Prince of Peace on Saturday, January 30th. Signup sheets are available, call Mississippi Valley Blood Center to set up an appointment.

- Deacon Jeff has been going to the food banks monthly for The Arch to pick up supplies.
- The Diocesan Stewardship Commission has been meeting monthly. They are working to combine the Stewardship Evangelization and Faith Formation. Many things they deal with overlap.
- Deacon Jeff has been asked and accepted to join the Diocesan Faith Formation.

J. Director of Outreach Ministry – (Annette Lyons)

- People are really enjoying the birthday phone calls they are receiving.
- They are trying to find creative ways to stay in touch with people. Bible Study is being held on Zoom and people are using the prayer line as well.
- Maureen Geerts crocheted 40 Christmas boots that were filled with flowers and given to the homebound, assisted living and nursing home people.
- Calls are being received from people wanting Communion and Confession. Please let them know if you hear of anyone that is in need.

VII. Continuing Business –(Dave)

A. Mega-Fish Marketing

- Nothing new to report on the Parish Initiative since Covid.
- Jake Jacks of Mega-Fish Marketing is working with the Diocesan Stewardship Commission as they would like stewardship to be part of what people do when they come back to church, and how to get connected.

VIII. New Business

A. Post Covid - returning to Mass (Father Ken)

- The Bishops of Iowa are going to have an outreach to all the people of Iowa using media, etc. when the time comes for us to welcome everyone back.
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is planning a 2 to 3 year program for parishes and reactivating our faith.
- The Diocese is working on a document called “Reclaiming the Lords Day”
- The Bishop would like to form a new committee to brainstorm what we can do to Evangelize. Father Tom Hennen and a Deacon candidate were asked to form this committee.

B. The Parish Life Commission still needs someone for the Vice Chair position.

IX. Adjournment – Dean Stone

X. Closing Prayer – Peace Prayer (Father Ken)

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be Thursday, March 18th, at 7:00pm.
The Faith Formation Commission Representative will lead the prayer.