

Pastoral Council



St. John
THE **Baptist**
CATHOLIC PARISH

July 9, 2020 | 6:00 – 8:00 | Commons w/social distancing

Joint Meeting with Finance Council

Attendees: Becky Bond, Fr Jim, Don Vande Yacht, Dale Garfield, Michelle Malone, Mary Hanson, Sarah Wulf, Michelle Nowak, Mary Reynebeau

Absentees: Cheryl Yursis, David Yeghiaian, Diana Ball, Dan Tooley

Meeting Minutes

Topic	Presenter	Time allotted
Opening Prayer	Kathy Caelwaerts	
Housekeeping	Mary Hanson	

Matt Utech will be stepping down and Michelle Nowak will take his place.

Approval of May meeting minutes. All in favor, no one opposed. Cheryl Yursis did approve prior to the meeting.

Chair/Vice Chair – At the next meeting we will vote on the chair/vice chair. Please consider putting your name in for either of these positions.

Old Church – Fr Jim and Dan Rotary spent time in the ministry center. Fr suggested possibly having Dan lead the discussion so that Fr can be a participant. That discussion still needs to happen with the larger group. Perhaps having it virtually would work or finding a date even if it isn't on the pastoral council or finance committee meeting day.

Capital Campaign/Feasibility Study

Fr. Jim/Sarah

The feasibility study will formally begin on Aug 5 at the leadership team meeting. SJB will provide CCS with 50 names (confidentially) of potential large donors in our parish based on historical giving data. CCS will schedule a 30 min – 1 hr visit with these families (virtual and/or in person). CCS will present some info but they will do a lot of listening. Once completed CCS will provide feedback to the parish. CCS will then present a realistic number they think SJB can raise. This is the first step in our process. Everything else will follow, including the projects associated with the capital campaign.

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Mary H was at the initial kickoff meeting with CCS and she felt very confident with the information they presented and with the company. They are very organized and have provided timely response to questions. It is costing SJB \$20,000 to use CCS. The money is paid through the campaign.

VRF Proxy Letter

Fr Jim/Sarah

7:15 - 7:25

Positive feedback on the video Kayla created. Everyone who spoke in the video has been involved thus far in the project. The video is on the website and it was sent to parishioners via email. It will not be on Facebook. So far Sarah has rec'd three responses to the email. Two were thank yous for bringing it to their attention and one was about Grace and if they were pitching in money. The response was that has yet to be determined and that Drew is working on fund raising. The proxy letter was sent to the diocese. They have reviewed it and came back with questions. SJB had three quotes and the diocese had questions on all three. Currently Sarah is pulling together the responses to their questions and then the diocese will review it. Sarah also sent the Diocese a copy of the video.

Discipleship Maker Survey

Fr. Jim/Sarah

7:25 - 7:40

There is a 4-step process we need to go through to get to defined goals. So far we have accomplished two webinars and two meetings. It has been a journey of trying to marry our mission plan with the Discipleship Maker survey data. They want to honor the mission plan and the work that went into it. The group struggled with the process Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) was following. They will use the CLI process and decouple what we are doing from the mission plan. The focus will be on the data and the process. It feels like a positive advance. The next webinar is next week. There are three priorities and under each one there is one goal. Each goal will have approximately three tasks that need to be accomplished.

Discipleship – Offer three new or ongoing programs that help our parishioners self-identify with being on a catholic journey by 7/30/21. CLI will help us with this one.

Eucharist – To provide three opportunities to grow in belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist by 6/30/21. From the survey 75% strongly agree but CLI says there is another 20% that are close to taking that step to believing that more strongly. This is the core of discipleship. National data shows 1 out of 3 people believe. It also shows 1 out of 3 go to church. As a staff this is one area they are focused on. Matt, the Seminarian, will be doing a 4-part talk on the mass. Part 1 is this weekend before mass begins. It will be part of the live stream.

Mission – Offer 3 new or ongoing programs that help our parishioners gain confidence in the churches teaching so they can answer other's questions by 7/30/21. Matt (seminarian) was added to this group along with two school teachers who are also church members.

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Matt Utech was heading up gathering the information from all the committees. The staff discussed and they will be taking that goal over versus having the pastoral council work on it. Mary H will f/u with Matt and have him drop off whatever information he has gathered thus far.

Appreciate Breakfast

Mary Hanson

7:30 - 7:50

The appreciate breakfast has been going on for several years. The purpose was to thank the parish for all they do. Over the last few year the breakfast hasn't had a high turnout. Not sure if it has the same impact as it originally did and if there is still value in continuing with it. With Covid we probably won't have any appreciation gathering for awhile but a team of individuals (Michelle M, Becky B, Sarah W, Mary H and Diana B) will get together and come up with some ideas. Thought is to have a "welcome back" instead of an appreciation gathering. The budget is somewhere around \$2000.

Due to Covid all agreed we should cancel the next breakfast. Sarah will cancel the pancake person.

Mass Opening/Attendance

Sarah Wulf

7:50 – 7:55

SJB stopped having people signup online because we have been under the max. SJB has been averaging about 250 people attending mass in person on the weekend. Approx 300-400 people attend the live stream masses. Fr Jim is hearing other churches are seeing low attendance at the in person masses as well. Experts say large gatherings is one of the most unsafe things you can do. We are confronting this with our love our neighbor processes: masks, thermometer checks, hand sanitizer and social distancing in the pews. Overall there has been very good compliance. At times some people have taken their mask off once in the pew. It is the minority but it needs to be addressed. The weekend mass goers understand the process but when there are funerals or masses, not all in attendance are following the guidelines. The Discipleship Maker Survey results revealed welcoming is one of SJB's strengths. It has been challenging to be welcoming with the masks and temperature checks. Covid phase 2 priority is to be welcoming. We are shifting our mindset but we want to maintain the safety measures. People are strongly recommended to wear a mask but it isn't 100% required or mandated by the diocese. Mary H took temps last weekend and had a few people she had to ask to wear a mask. No push back. Where Mary's daughter goes to church in the valley, no one is wearing masks and they don't hand them out. Thank you to Fr Jim for keeping safety at the forefront. We are following what the diocese has asked us to do.

A more controversial issue we have encountered is our decision to not have people come to 8:00 and only live stream it with music. This decision was made because singing creates more aerosol than speaking and musicians can't sing with a mask. We need to be consistent otherwise it creates questions. Fr and the staff are struggling with the seemingly inconsistency with what we are doing. What is everyone's perspective on everything that is going on? Feedback: Singing adds to the mass so if there is a way to have singing with people in person that would be great. Otherwise keep it with just the live streaming. SJB wants to keep doing live streaming as people like the option and want live streaming to continue. It is a nice thing for the homebound, sick or those who aren't comfortable going out in public. Michelle N said she misses the music when she is in person. Is there a way to just play guitar and piano and not have singing? That is something that was brought to Paul, Karen and Fr's attention and they have now added more music. A lot of people are drawn to SJB because

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of the music. The discipleship survey also showed people like the music. Our top three were promoters (people who recommend the parish), welcoming and music.

Welcoming and the mass – Sarah asked the council to think of things SJB can do to be welcoming. Sarah shared they are planning on creating a video (smile behind the mask). Welcome back/happy to see you signs will be hung as well as Love thy neighbor signs that will be placed along the roadside.

Closing Prayer

Kathy Caelwaerts

7:55 – 8:00

Next Meeting

August 13, 2020 | 6:30 – 8:00 | Parish Office |

Other Information

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