



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastoral Council Minutes February 18, 2020

In Attendance

Staff: Msgr. David LeSieur-Pastor, Fr. Rodolphe Balthazar -Associate Pastor, Deacon Ronnie Hoyt-Parish Manager, Raydele Klostermeier-Parish Manager newly hired, Tom DeRose-Facilities Manager, Karen Peters-Director of Adult Formation, Sandra Dominguez-Director of Finance & Administration, Alice Stautzenberger-SVdP School Principal.

Members-At-Large: Ryan James-President, Kerry Laman-Vice President, Pete Metzger, Kaleigh Green Hall, Michelle Martin

Commission Chair: Sheila Pursell-Social Outreach-Secretary, Jeff Snyder-Finance & Administration

Fr. Rodolphe opened with prayer.

Minutes from last meeting attached and approved.

Finance & Administration

It is estimated we will do slightly better than the 8% reduction in contributions budgeted. We should collect 100% of the amount pledged to the Capital Campaign. Utilities are expected higher in summer for new building. SVdP has been approved by diocese to borrow 3.2 million but will only need about 1.5 million with monthly payments being about \$12,000. Have collected 84% of pledges with 15 more months left in the pledge period. June 2021 will probably owe \$700,000-800,000. Will refinance and payment should be \$7,000 month.

- Loan will be finalized within next two weeks. First loan payment April 1st.
- Building not yet finished – inside complete, but more exterior work needed.
- Retention pond still has standing water.
- Daily Mass Chapel is complete.

Ryan welcomed Raydele Klostermeier as our new Parish Manager effective April 6, 2020. Raydele is currently a Facility Maintenance manager at Wal-Mart and has a strong background in finance, accounting and real estate. Her love of church work is reflected in her many volunteer hours in Confirmation classes, serving as an EMC and lector and helping to lead “Choice Wine” classes for married couples. Raydele wants to support spiritual growth and hopes to be a source of encouragement in building the SVdP faith community.

School Report

Alice Stautzenberger reported that the school's biggest fund raiser will be 2/29/20. Monies raised will be used particularly for scholarships, the gym floor and technology. SVdP School is currently partnering with Food Loops; a land fill, compost & recycling company. The goal is to reduce the landfill so school is not spending so much on garbage removal.

- A holy water font has been placed in each classroom.

Liturgy & Worship

- Weekday Chapel is a big help in accommodating the many demands for church services. Smaller gatherings can take place along with large church ceremonies.
- Planning on an appreciation for altar servers as well as their coordinators in mid-July.
- Valentine's Day recital and dinner. Lourdes would like to have a family event every quarter. She is doing an excellent job in taking the initiative to build "Church is your home." Starting with the St. Cecilia concerts, Lourdes expanded to a Nicaraguan event on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and has numerous children taking music lessons.
- Legion of Mary has new leader, Dora Laura. New connection with L & W.
- Parish Mission is scheduled for the weekend of 3/7-3/8.
- Night Time Adorer Spanish Adorers group is held the third Saturday of the month. Prayer goes throughout the night and end with 7:45 a.m. Mass on Sunday.
- Deacon Ronnie complimented L&W to in encouraging people to participate in the Mass. Ryan James asked if Annette would reach out to 4th graders to assist as altar servers. We need help with younger children serving.

Parish Life

- First Fish fry of the year is the Friday after Ash Wednesday.
- Philipino Community shared song and dance with new building dedication. After Mass, parishioners were invited to dinner which packed our new building.
- Every Sunday, Vietnamese community uses all the rooms in the new building.
- Homes school classes also use new building.
- Theatre Ministry has started preparing for Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

Formation

- Parish Mission – Theme is the "Real Presence" of Christ to emphasize this great gift to the Church. Sadly, more and more Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence. Msgr. LeSieur asked if other parishes have been invited but Karen said she is focusing on St. Vincent.

- Fr. Dennis Chriszt, CPPS will be speaking with English speaking attendees and Mrs. Gretchen Baily, Companion to the Missionaries of Precious Blood, to Spanish speaking attendees. Mission weekend is Saturday, 3/7 – Sunday, 3/8. Both Spanish and English will gather in large church for praise and worship followed by break out talks with the speaker of your language. In keeping with Lent and Haiti collection that weekend, lunch and dinners will be kept simple. Rice & Beans and Soups.
- Hosting Rite of Election with Bishop Taylor, Saturday 3/29.
- This Wednesday, 2/19 a talk on the Real Presence to RCIA group. Children and parents have been invited to attend.
- Recommended to watch “The Veil Removed”.
- Movie Night, “Unplanned” and “Our Lady of Guadalupe. Next movie will be 3/19, Feast of St. Joseph.
- Parish Staff started study on Pope Francis
- New Board on Divina Misericordia. Put on Divine Mercy Celebration each year.
- Adult Formation – St. Andrew for Spanish weekend of 2/22-23. English in March for New Life.
- This is the first year we have celebrated rites in Spanish.
- Young married couples – usually 2nd Friday, meet in individual homes. Currently viewing
- FORMED – Who am I to Judge with appetizers and social.

Social Outreach

Caregivers/Bereavement Ministry - Plan to attend and have a table with information at the upcoming Palliative Care Conference at Mercy Hospital. Group has been divided into two; 2nd Saturday, 8-10 people Caregivers & 4th Saturday, 2-3 people dealing with grief.

Food Pantry - Kim a volunteer for the Food pantry encouraged and has succeeded in 7th graders from Elmwood Junior High street coming to help organize, sort and food containers. Great opportunity for evangelization to serve the poor. Children can also receive service hours.

- Mercy Hospital donation. Doctors/nurses at hospitals compete in donations with doctors/nurses at clinics.

Haiti Ministry – A mission trip is scheduled for June 16 – 22, 2020. To date 6 people have signed up. If your part of the ministry, have first dibs to mission. If still open space, then it is opened to parish. Annual appeal is the 2nd week of Lent, March 7th – 8th.

- Four scholarships were given and three students are now Juniors in college. This next group traveling to Haiti will be able to meet the students. There are currently about 800 families that participate in various capacities of the Haiti Ministry.

8th Street Motel Food Ministry - St. Vincent continues to have several parish ministries sign up to provide a monthly meal for the homeless. Dates are scheduled through 2020: 3/12/2020, 4/2/2020, 5/14/2020, 6/11/2020, 7/9/2020, 8/13/2020. Set up at 4:30, start serving at 4:50 cleanup at 5:50, leave by 6:00. Need to have at least 10 to serve. Usually about 80-100 people are served.

Helping Hands - Record number of 30 volunteers on Saturday, February 1st. Future service dates: May 16th, September 5th, December 19th

Respect Life

- Planned Parenthood still closed. Go with individuals to support prayer warriors in Tulsa and Little Rock. Ash Wednesday, 2/26 – Palm Sunday, 4/5/20.
- Palliative Care Conference for Friday, 3/20 at Mercy Hospital Auditorium with Dr. Natalie Rodden, Palliative Care and Hospice Director for St. Anthony Hospital in Denver, CO. There will be 2 conferences, 12:30 – 1:30 and 5:30 – 6:30. Palliative Care in Intensive Caring: Providing Relief for Serious Illness.
- Putting together a group of guys to build some new crosses for Cross Memorial.
- Discerning location of next Rose Procession.
- Developing talk and group to witness at Public School.
- Continue to Deliver Gift bags to Pregnancy Help Centers
- NWA Respect Life will lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 3rd. Checking to see if we can serve at St. Joseph – F and St. Stephen.

SVdP Society – Will Green is the new coordinator replacing Betty Eccleston. The Society's busiest season is September – December. They are planning a Closing Out meeting or Tail Gate and they will review positives and negatives, especially with Love Tree, from the past year. Will and Fernando want to put together a future “road map” for planning so anyone can pick up and know what needs to be done and when.

Foster Care Support – A new ministry has been added to Social Outreach; The Holy Family Foster and Adoption Support Ministry. Camus Maroney, a foster parent herself,

is heading up a new ministry to support Catholic families in NWA who have or are in the fostering/adoption process. They will be going to parishes within NWA to promote the organization. The goals are to educate, encourage and to support.

Budget Planning

Sandra has sent budget sheets to all coordinator and they should be returned by March 31st. Are there any ministries in particular that should be added? Look for things that we may have a void – now is the time to add. What is the opportunity that is being missed? Maybe Prison Ministry?

Ryan asked about the need for counseling services. Deacon Ronnie confirmed that is a high priority in our parish. Marriage, addiction, anxiety, etc. There is no one on staff available other than priests. There are several Catholic and Christian counselors that we refer to but no one on staff. A ministry of people who will just listen. 10 deacons are being formed – one or two. Some need deeper counseling. No real answer yet.

- There is an increase of Spiritual Directors available and a Divorce Ministry is providing support.

Next Pastoral Council meeting is May 19th @ 6:00pm

Meeting closed with prayer at 8:20pm