



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**August 18, 2020**

**In Attendance**

Msgr. David LeSieur-Pastor, Fr. Mike Johns-Assoc. Raydele Klostermeier-Parish Manager, Tom DeRose-Facilities Manager, Karen Peters-Dir. of Adult Formation, Sandra Domínguez, Dir. of F&A, Suzie Perry-Dir of Youth Formation, Alice Stautzenberger-SVdP School Principal

Jeff Snyder-F&A, Kelly Kopp-Co-Formation, Bob Maloney-Parish Life, Ryan James-President, Pete Metzger, Sheila Pursell, Social Outreach (Secretary), Mariana Morales, Michelle Martin

*Msgr. David said the opening prayer.*

*Meeting begin with announcement of changes in Parish Staff:*

*Raydele Klostermeier began as Parish Manager at the end of June*

*Debi Snyder is new Director of Liturgy & Worship, Social Outreach, and Parish Life*

*Suzi Perry Director of Youth Formation K-12<sup>th</sup> grade*

**Reports**

**F&A** - Cemetery in good financial position.

Long-time member Pam Rabin has moved her parishioner-ship to St. Joseph in Fayetteville.

Loan – outstanding just a little less than \$1.3 million. Everyone is quite pleased in where we are in collecting pledges.

- Projected to be under 800,000 for re-amortized loans.
- We currently have 22 weeks of cash on hand.
- COVID subsidies, we will be in great shape.

Operational expenses are down due to COVID. Meetings are not being held on campus and, consequently, there has been savings in utilities. Building and grounds costs are also down and there have been no major building repairs. Staff has done an incredible job with saving money.

Offertory is down by 35%. Fortunately, we have been blessed with two large donations. Auto-withdrawal contribution remains the same. PayPal donation participation has increased, most likely from parishioners not attending Mass, but continuing to support our parish.

### **Liturgy & Worship**

Worship space camera is up and running. The quality and sound have significantly improved our live streaming of weekend Masses. School Masses start Thursday 8/20 and 8/21.

### **Parish Life**

Not many events since March. Knights' fish fries were cancelled. Food Pantry received a \$750 donation from Knights of Columbus. Had first installation of officers, Paul Dufford new Grand Knight. Knights will assist with Parish Festival.

Scaled down version of Parish Festival – 25-year anniversary! “25 Years of Breaking Bread” is the theme. Big thank you to Knights who will contribute \$750 to the event. Novena beginning September 18, the blood mobile will be here Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, and the Society will have their annual Walk for the Poor (via virtual walk) as part of the Festival celebration. Celebration is after 7:45am, 10:00am and Noon Masses. Courtyard will be decorated with banners and posters. We will be distributing containers of sweet bread. We are welcoming parishioners back to parish 9/27/20. Ministries are being asked to come in their “colors” to stand out.

### **Formation**

Adult ministries have come back to campus for meetings. Safety guidelines for ministries and what they need to practice when they come to campus. We will meet in new ministry building, church and hall. Space is to be scheduled in advance. Attendee forms will be completed by groups in order to keep track if anyone is infected with COVID.

Kelly Kopp reported that “Mom’s Growing in Faith” will resume Friday, 8/21. Discuss the readings from Mass.

RCIA for Adults – In person sessions, meeting room will depend on numbers. Max capacity/room is 12. Kick off Wednesday, 9/16. Baptized Catholics begin in January 2021

### **Youth Formation K-12<sup>th</sup>**

First time for on-line registration. Not using school building for Sunday or Wednesday night programs. Registering all First Communion and continuing education, will meet in Worship Space as family. Formation begins with relationship with Jesus. The goal is to try and make things as personal as possible. Last year roughly 1500 registered, currently less than 500. We will be reaching out to others not registered who would be 2<sup>nd</sup> year prep., so they know there is a virtual option. Small groups will have a mentor that follows-up with attendees who have not responded. Accountability is a bit different with small groups. Small groups help not only with accountability and making it more personal. Mentors are communicating with both child and parent directly.

Diocese requires that everything communicated virtually to be reported.

### **SVdP School**

Just completed day four. Spread out as best we can for classrooms. Children are wearing masks. Feel very good about being outside – keep safe with 6’ distancing. Two classes of every grade except kindergarten which has three. Kindergarten is hardest to keep apart! New Assist principal – Ashley Davis.

- Enrollment is down to 358. Twenty-five children attend school through virtual classes.
- Rogers public school district reported 25% doing virtual.
- After school programs are still going on – sports, band & choir.
- Zones for outside recreation, students stay within class.

### **Ozark Catholic Academy**

Total 75 students, 30 new students. First graduation class this May. Entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of five-year lease in St. Joseph-T, still room to grow. Adding girls’ volleyball, boys’ baseball and cheerleading. Parents are trusting Ozark as an education option. Retention is great and they continue to grow.

## Social Outreach

### Caregivers/Bereavement Ministry

The C/B group consists of members in the highest Covid19 risk category and who are also technically challenged. All are dealing with isolation issues and hunger for social interaction. We are planning on meetings via telephone conferencing. iPhone will permit 5 phone numbers so will split group into caregivers and bereavement and those in between; attempt to offer an outlet for sharing and caring.

<u>Food Pantry</u>	JUNE	JULY	DIFFERENCE
Households Served:	351	309	- 42
Total People Served:	1140	1334	-194

The Food Bank has done an exceptional job of keeping us stocked with USDA Commodities, dry good and frozen chicken or pork.

Diana Eikenberry has been teaching our CT trained volunteers a new system. Laptop taken to car and Oasis information entered thus eliminating having to enter twice.

Wonderful group of volunteers including the staff from the church that help 3 days a week every week. Although slim, there is a risk of contracting COVID. Sometimes only 3 or 4 on a shift but working like there were 10.

Haiti Ministry - Mission trip scheduled for June 16 – 22 was cancelled. Rescheduled dates TBA.

Jail Ministry - Visitations are currently not allowed so communication only exists via electronic options. Summer care packages were sent to three inmates from NWA that are in Prison in Southern Arkansas.

Homeless Ministry/8<sup>th</sup> 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 September 2021. Due to COVID, we are not serving the poor directly but putting food in take-out delivery boxes.

There are now five Oxford Houses in northwest Arkansas- one of which is in Rogers; 306 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St., next to Rogers City Hall. These are to house those recovering from drug and alcohol addictions.

### **Helping Hands**

- Our May parish service date was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Helping Hands closed on Saturdays for several weeks beginning in late March.
- Saturday hours were restored earlier this summer consistent with statewide guidance on “re-opening” the economy. Very few churches have been able to offer volunteers on Saturdays due to ongoing concern of contagion. The volunteer base for most churches, including SVdP, is comprised of age groups deemed most vulnerable to the virus (i.e. most volunteers are older/senior). Helping Hands has been managing the weekend with its paid staff and community service workers.
- We are assigned to work on September 5<sup>TH</sup> – John and his wife will not be attending. Tim will be placing the ad in the bulletin as well as offering an announcement after Mass. Volunteers are to contact management at Helping Hands.
- Next service date is in December. Hoping to return to our former level of fantastic volunteer support.

### **Respect Life**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Street Food Ministry – September 10, 2020
- Built 1,000 Memorial Crosses, four churches signed up thus far. SVdP – Friday, 10/23 – Wednesday, 11/4
- Pro-Life Apologetics Training. Zoom classes through Justice for All.
- Safe Haven Baby Box – Springdale
- Rose Procession – First Nazarene Church, Rogers, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm
- Visit to Nursing Homes

### **SVdP Society**

- Rather slow until about 3 weeks ago. Requests for assistance have been flooding in. More people and larger bills. Previously, there was a cap of \$200/family, but now they are averaging about \$400/family. The good news is that parishioners have been “scary” generous/wonderful! One parishioner gave their entire stimulus check. Currently they have a balance of about \$75,000 so they are able to meet the demand.
- Virtual Walk for the Poor on Saturday, 9/26. Announcements made in the bulletin. Those who sign-up will receive a Novena notice 9 days prior to walk.
- Due to COVID, there will not be a collection of coats until after COVID numbers go down or there is a vaccine. \*Still planning on Love Tree. Will and Fernando have put together a three-page guidelines giving directions on how to coordinate the Love Tree.

Altar Servers – Starting with just 1 right now who brings in the cross.

Protocol for restarting ministries – campus guidelines have been established. Masks, hand sanitizing stations at all building entrances, and cleaning after meeting, COVID plan is with diocese through Deacon Matt Glover. Includes COVID definition, directives to parishioners and attendees, what is the plan should someone come down with COVID, comprehensive plan.

5-Year Goal: What does it mean to bring parishioners back? Why should they come back? Emphasis on friendship with Christ – one baptism in Christ. SVdP is a safe place, safer than your local Wal-Mart. How do we communicate joy of the parish?

Vocations Update – At the formation house in Little Rock, Joel Brackett and Andrew Schaffer from SVdP. Currently, 30 seminarians. Two new priests in the diocese and 5 ordained as deacons. Dc candidates 9 – one, Ken Hunter, transferred to St. Stephen. Eight to be installed as acolytes (year 3) in September.

We are still looking for the possibility of a counselor either on staff or one to contract.

**Next meeting 11/17/20**

Fr. Mike closed with prayer at 7:25pm.

