

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

\*The meeting was quickly rerouted to the Avitabile home at 5:50 PM by phone when Father Robert notified Will that he would not attend due to an emergency, leaving us no access to the church. Present, were Will and Catherine, Dave and Susannah Nelson, and Steve Andreatta. Reggie was absent. Will called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

\*Catherine offered the opening prayer, which asked for, alongside God's blessings on our construction project, for God to quickly spread cooperation at the regional church level of the Pope's warning to American Bishops not to withhold Communion as a means of political coercion. A brief flurry of concerned conversation followed, with an immediate return to the printed agenda.

\*Last month's minutes were approved.

\*Father's absence resulted in discussion points being addressed by Pastoral Council members only, and though we shared with each other questions that we had brought to the meeting to ask him during open discussion, no State of the Parish information was available.

\*We reviewed Brian's communique on the timing of various parts and pieces of the construction project as they are planned to unfold, point by point.

\*We studied the tally of Flocknotes responses to the Ministry Fair articles which have been published one by one, and noted a favorable interest in Pastoral Council, as compared to other ministries featured thus far. In fact, PC was of equal interest with Finance Council, in spite of the great difference in membership between the two leadership groups, with Parish Council membership chronically under quorum, with new members difficult to find, enlist and maintain. Steve registered dismay at seeing no responses directed at our Music Ministry, but though Reggie was not present, she supplied later that her information requests to Alicia and Maryann had been acknowledged and appreciated, but that neither was currently informed by Father as to any near-future gathering of the choir. Also noted was the fact that parishioners expressed desire for Adult Faith Formation, Bible Study, and Social Justice speakers.

\*Pastoral Council was pleased that Survey Monkey has been purchased at its most basic level and will be available for the year to any parish function that needs it, though data is not saved very long on the program and must be downloaded right away for use.

\*Susannah shared her notes from her visit to the most recent Pastoral Staff Meeting. She was honored to be invited to attend by Fr. Robert as a representative of the Pastoral Council, and she is happy to continue doing so. She suggested that reciprocal attendance at meetings by appointed designees of other parish advisory groups would be helpful for communication and transparency. Pastoral Council was pleased to hear of the number of baptisms and house blessings scheduled, but registered concern that the Divine Renovation discussion was postponed due to lack of time. The parish is waiting for

notification from the hospitals regarding when EMs may continue their ministry there, along with notification as to when Pastoral Care visits to homes may resume.

\*Discussion took place regarding the article announcing the Mission Alignment Plan authored by Bishop Barber. Concern was expressed at the lack of representation from East County parish and that there appears to be an unstated motive of potential parish closures. Susannah pointed out that high-ranking financial administrators for the Diocese are mentioned at the end of the list of participants, which indicates that major financial decisions will be discussed and determined.

\*As we discussed the re-opening of the parish and the renewal of parish activities, Susannah inquired as to how events are scheduled. When it was explained that it is done by a paper calendar, she suggested that it would be more efficient and transparent if the heads of groups all had access to an electronic calendar (e.g. Google Calendar) managed by a parish staff member.

\*Dave recalled the review of the construction discussed earlier on the agenda, and as a former pastor, cited the lack of meeting rooms for simultaneous and specific use by ministries as a challenge for future parish health and participation. We hope for partitions at least, though have been told that accordion dividers are not part of the plan.

\*The balance of meeting time was spent visiting, sharing in particular our experiences teaching the youth/teens of the parish, and discussing ways to get them not only involved, but committed.

Will concluded the meeting at 9:30 P.M., citing the sharing as our prayer.