

Parish Council Meeting for Wednesday, August 5, 2020

In attendance: Fr. Paul Nwaeze; Rev. Jonathon Kelly; David Dupuis (Chair); Bob Near (KoC); Ted Hurley; Sharon Sudsbear (CWL); Cathy Koss (Youth); Josephene Kealey (Secretary)

In virtual attendance: Hailey Krol (and baby Gideon); Cathy Deogrades (V-Chair); Peter Atkinson; Edgar Acosta

Absentee: Marc Gaudet

Meeting opened 4:30pm

Prayer lead by Fr. Paul. We conducted a round-table session of Pit, Peak, and Prayer.

1. History and Future of the Council.

David covered a general history of the Council for the past two years. He commented that the Council had been bogged down with long discussions. Fr. Paul initiated a Council in 2018 since the Council had been dissolved in the past. Fr. Paul's primary focus is discipleship, through the various ministries. Two "retreats" were held in the church for the ministry heads and members to promote the idea of discipleship and evangelization.

Some new ideas were initiated: Coffee Sundays; the Welcome Committee; Welcome packages for new parishioners; Ministry Marketplace.

The Council was focused on the Volunteer Appreciation event and the AGM, up until COVID19.

Fr. Paul commented that our parish needs to be a welcoming parish, for people to feel that they belong; for the parishioners to use their gifts and to disciple each other. We need to focus on the mandate issued from the Bishop: to form missionary disciples.

Peter: this process of explaining the Council's history and future goals is helpful when the Council transitions (invites new members, when roles are changed).

Ted: The big question is: what are we being called to, as a parish?

David: Our main goal is a 5 Year Plan. However, steps leading to the 5YP need to be made.

2. What is Pastoral Council? What is our role?

David read from our constitution for clarification. He focused on two phrases: "policies and goals" and "evaluate the ministries." In brief, we have long-term plans and day-to-day evaluations to conduct. Both are necessary.

Policies&Goals: David produced a list of the ministries active in our parish. He suggested each Council member take on a shared number of them as communicators between the ministry heads and members and the Council.

The list was divided at the meeting. See attached.

The intention is for each ministry to report back to the Council on a monthly basis on its activities, its struggles, its successes, how it needs to be supported by the Council.

Fr. Paul will advise the ministries of this new process, emphasizing that the intention is to support and care for ministry members, helping them on our parish journey towards becoming missionary disciples.

3. The Vatican document regarding parishes (as submitted by Cathy D.)

David highlighted three things from the document: territory principle (focus on our parish and on our diocesan jurisdiction); Fr. Paul is not a team leader in his role as a member of the Council; we need to be focused on the mundane aspects of parish life, not on lofty theological arguments.

F. Paul highlighted the instruction from the document pertaining to members of a Parish Council: that they consist of those who have effective responsibilities in the parish, who are involved members, who experience the “life” of the parish from with ministry memberships. Fr. Paul shared that the Amazing Parish conference outlined criteria for selecting members of a Parish Council.

Two major questions are A. How, as a parish, do we seek new ways to evangelize? How are we to furnish parishioners to have a missionary spirit?

Bob: Our parish mission is to evangelize. The Council’s role seems to be to enable this evangelization.

Fr. Paul: Council members are supposed to be the first to model this missionary spirit.

Peter: It is key we understand that evangelizing is not a spectator sport. We need to be actively participating. All members should be protagonists of being disciples and making disciples. We need creative responses to engage with parishioners, like the Welcoming Committee.

Ted: Section 10 of the document: we must find ways to invite the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the church.

Bob: What is the face of the church?

Ted: Everything!

David: COVID closed our church. But our “church” needs to continue its work, without the building. How do we do this?

Cathy K: we must find ways to work harder to involve school members and their families into the parish life.

Fr. Paul: we to need work with the diocese, especially in regard to the sacraments. There is inconsistency between the parishes, and that's not good. We need to be firmer and clearer on this issue, in speaking with the diocese which needs to take on a greater responsibility in this regard.

4. Where are we going, from here?

Towards our 5YP. Brainstorm for the next meeting: if there were no restrictions, what would you like to see at the parish, to help it make missionary disciples who evangelize? Share ideas before the next meeting so we have clearer ideas to share when we do meet (effective and efficient meeting).

Closing prayer lead by Rev. Jonathon.