

St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Triangle, VA

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

17 October 2020 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

I. Call to Order & Attendance – Virtual Meeting on Zoom.

- a. Members participating were Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, Pastor, Chair Terry Danner, Jean Allen, Phil Bongiorno, Maggie Eves, Vice-Chair, John Hales, Clarence Neason, Michelle Nicolai, Chuck O'Hern, Iván Nazario, Pequitte Schwerin, Angelica Silva, Dan Sullivan, Ulli Vaerst, Dr. Tricia Barber (Principal), Marv Floom (Chair, Finance Council), Marianne Hayes (RE). Also, in attendance was Fr. James Scullion, OFM and Fr. George Corrigan, OFM.

II. Opening Prayer – Fr. John

- III. **Approval of Minutes** - A motion was made and seconded to approve the 19 September 2020 minutes. The chair approved and the secretary will forward the minutes to Chanel for posting on the Parish website.

IV. Introductions

- a. Fr. George Corrigan, OFM introduced himself. Fr. George joins the parish from Sacred Heart Parish in Tampa, where he was Pastor. He was born in Atlanta and grew up in Orlando. Fr. George graduated from the Naval Academy and served on active duty through 1982. He was the Chief Information Officer for a private business. Fr. George was ordained in 2007.
- b. Iván Nazario was appointed by Fr. John to fill the position occupied by Chuck O'Hern. Iván is a technology consultant with Accenture Federal Services. Chuck O'Hern is increasingly in North Carolina, but will remain in contact, and was thanked for his service to the Parish.
- c. Council members in attendance also introduced themselves.

V. Pastor's Report

- a. Father Iggy was hospitalized for a surgical procedure, it has gone better than expected, and he is making an excellent recovery.
- b. A list of Friar areas of responsibility was circulated. It is an attachment to these minutes.
- c. A 5:30 PM Sunday Mass was added. The Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 masses continue to be sold out, the 5:30 is about 75% of capacity so far.

- d. Donations are coming in for the video installation (see Finance Council for details). Tom Peitler will do the installation work. An outside estimate for the same work was over \$20,000. A trial of one of the cameras shows a greatly improved picture quality.
- e. Fr. John reiterated that live streaming is here to stay. It gets viewers from 30 states and several foreign countries.
- f. There has been an issue with an individual taking his mask off while in attendance at Mass. Special seating arrangements are being made due to the circumstances of this case. The Parish requires all attendees to wear masks during the in person mass.
- g. Other Parishes in Deanery 5 are using less effective methods of scanning and social distancing. Feedback from attendees has been positive on the process at St. Francis of Assisi.
- h. The Parish is starting to make plans for the Christmas Masses. There will likely be in person Mass in both the Church and Gym.
- i. Parish Communications on social media
 - 1. Fr. George will lead the area for the Friars
 - 2. Voter registration / Get out the vote activity
 - 3. Looking at bringing coherence to a multitude of platforms, such as WhatsApp (Hispanic Group), Website, Remind (Youth Ministry), email system (VOICE)
 - 4. Longer term plan, that includes how to effectively segment and communicate.
 - 5. There was a discussion of Parish Data System and other avenues for contact management for push notifications, via mail, text, or other.

VI. School update - Dr. Tricia Barber

- a. Registration Update:
 - 1. Grades K-5 and 8 are capped
 - 2. Grades 6 and 7 have some openings
 - 3. Total registration is at 244
- b. Social media feeds are well monitored and being updated daily.
- c. The Friday Mass is being streamed to the school, with lectors and cantors from the school. An in person outdoor mass was held on St. Francis day.

- d. Parent teacher conferences are all held virtually – the school is keeping all visitors out to minimize Coronavirus exposure risks.

VII. Religious Education Report – Maryanne Hayes

- a. Registration for religious education has decreased slightly from previous years.

VIII. Hispanic Ministry Update - Iván Nazario

- a. The following events are in place
 1. A weekly RCIA for Spanish speakers at 7pm
 2. A weekly Thursday holy hour currently every other week to progress to monthly
 3. A weekly Friday Rosary
 4. A biweekly Spanish roundtable
 5. Many thanks to Tom Peitler for helping stream the Spanish Mass
 6. A WhatsApp social media group has been established
 7. Spanish language bulletins
- b. Participation in the 1:30 Spanish mass is at capacity under current social distancing guidelines.

IX. Finance Council Report – Marv Floom

- a. Covid-19 operating expenses are approximately \$20,000 fiscal year to date. This includes cleaning labor, supplies, and 2 portable disinfecting machines.
- b. A new church office door was installed with receptionist monitored electronic access.
- c. Collections are down \$50,000 from last year at the same point in time.
- d. Collections at the time of Mass are up about 50% for the last two weeks. This does not count electronic giving and PayPal.
- e. Donations for the video broadcast upgrades have been \$10,000. The parish needs another \$2,000 to pay for the equipment. There may some additional costs in other parts of the Parish technology infrastructure.
- f. Fr. John received a \$10,000 gift for the parish in appreciation for his ministry over the years from the a Parish family.
- g. The first step in getting the parking lot permit resolved is to conduct an ‘as-built’ survey and review the drawings that were done. The Diocese has put this out for bids. The costs will accrue to St. Francis.
- h. The St. Francis staff remains, thankfully, Coronavirus free.

X. New Business

- a. There will be officer elections at the next meeting for Chair, Co-Chair and Recorder
- b. There is an issue with a redesign of access to the MCB Quantico near Mary's Flower Shop. This may impede access to St. Francis, or hinder traffic after Mass. Andrea Bailey of Price William Community Affairs has been contacted.
- c. The homeless shelter may move to the old Grace Baptist church; however, this is running into obstacles from those who don't want it.
- d. The Virginia Catholic Conference represents public policy interests of Virginia Catholics and provides lines of communication with the Virginia Legislators.
- e. Pequitte Schwerin had been contacted by Unity in the Community to secure applications for rental assistance. Unity in the Community is managing a \$23,000 grant for this. They need to expend the grant by 11 November. If so another \$27,000 will be available. Fr. John contacted the Diocese and was advised that St. Francis cannot vouch for nor prepare Grant applications for this money due to liability issues. After some discussion St. Francis house can refer individuals to the program or to other social welfare organizations (such as Prince William School social workers) who can do the grant applications.

XI. Upcoming events

- a. Saturday 24 October from 8 am to 1 pm there will be a clean-up of the grounds around the St. Mary statue and labyrinth. There are 11 volunteers signed up so far from the KofC, Pastoral Council, and Columbiettes. Anyone is welcome to participate, please RSVP to Dan Sullivan at dan_irene@verizon.net
- b. The next Town Hall is being scheduled for November
- c. Adult Religious Education will be via virtual presentations

XII. Next Meeting – The next meeting was set for November 21st at 9:30 AM.

XIII. Closing Prayer – The closing prayer was offered by Chuck O'Hern.

XIV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.