

October 2020 Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

Present: Father Paul, Lawton Blandford, Julie Andrews, Colleen Sutton, Clare Charzewski, Theresa Eze, Robert Dills, Robbie Doran, Matt Gibbons, Scott Phillips, John Russell, and Juan Saiz

Absent: Jerry Gardner and Maggie Helton

1. **Prayer:** Julie Andrews
2. **Minutes:** Colleen Sutton

September minutes were reviewed, corrections made, and the minutes were approved.

3. Evaluation of Virtual Faith Formation Fall Programs – All

Last week was the start of our Virtual Faith Formation Programs. Appears to be going well. There has been no feedback whether positive or negative. Council members who have children in Faith Formation Programs stated that their children had participated in the Summer Programs, therefore, they had no feedback either.

4. Evaluation of Livestream Liturgies – All

The Livestream Liturgies are still going great. Still sad to see empty pews, but we are happy to be able to offer this option in our parish. It was mentioned that those that have attended in-person notice audio concerns (echoing, not being able to hear clearly). This is because with the size of the new church and not enough people in the pews, the sound can be a little distorted. However, the audio is great on the Livestreams. Number one concern, of course, is COVID-19 and the protocols. The parish is working very hard to ensure that all parishioners entering the church are wearing masks, social distancing (6 feet apart while sitting in the pews, exception; families may sit together) and utilizing the hand sanitizer stations located throughout the church. Since changing the verbiage on how many can attend mass in-person, from 99 to Limited Capacity, there has been an increase in attendance. Since the increase of attendance in-person, there has been a small downward trend in those using the live stream. The only concern mentioned was while observing via the live stream, it appears some are not social distancing during the communion procession (remaining 6 feet apart).

5. Project Saint Anne Camp-Perrin, Haiti – All

Saint Anne's in Camp-Perrin, Haiti is our sister church. We have been working and supporting this community for over 10+ years. Linda Bernard gave the parish an update on the current situation with the reconstruction of the church and the campus since it was destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Things are moving forward as planned. Queen of the Apostles was able to donate our Stations of the Cross and pews from our prior church to their new church that is under construction. Linda primarily wanted to say thank you for our continued prayers, monetary donations, and various other items that have been donated over this time.

6. Father Paul's Report – Father Paul

COVID-19 Update:

- a. We have begun allowing limited ministries to come back on board. These are Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, and Readers. Guidelines and instructions have been forwarded to these volunteers. Some of the other ministries can, are doing virtual meetings, as well as some of the Adult Study Programs.
- b. Home visits and nursing home facility visits are going very well. Father Paul stated he is following all COVID-19 protocols for each facility; some have different protocols in place. Father Paul will continue doing these visits by himself.
- c. His retreat last week went very well.

7. Roundtable Discussions – All

- a. It was stated that Gaston Hospital currently has 70 COVID-19 patients. Increased testing in the area has showed Gaston County had 500 new cases test Positive. Please remember to stay safe and practice safety measures that are in place throughout the State.
- b. We as a council are happy to see parishioners returning to church. We welcome suggestions on how to get more parishioners back into church and still be able to practice safety protocols.
- c. There was questions and concerns mentioned about the new ministry on social justice issues that is being led by Deacon Zeke. We as a council would like more information on this new ministry. We hope this new ministry is not trying to making a political statement; we want to know that the ministry is staying within the boundaries of the churches teaching on this subject; does it include all people of various demographics that represent our parish; does it have a Mission Statement, etc.? It was decided to extend an invitation to Deacon Zeke to discuss some of these questions and concerns (if he has the time in his calendar).
- d. We discussed if and how the parish will be able to celebrate the upcoming Advent Season. Examples: Logistics, what can and cannot be done because of COVID-19, etc. The Parish Staff is working on details and we look forward to hearing how we plan to proceed.
- e. Looks like the next opportunity for Small Groups will be in the up coming Lenten Season. Plans are in the works for this and quite sure it will be done virtually.
- f. World Youth Day is coming up in 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Originally this was scheduled for 2021, then 2022 and now it is planned for 2023. World Youth Day is a Catholic festival lead by many different Bishops from around the world. The theme is "Mary arose and left with haste (Lk 1:38). Our youth programs will be having fund raisers over the next couple of years, with the first one being the sale of Christmas wreaths and garland. The churches website and social media pages have all the details and the link to purchase these items. The goal is \$5,000.00.

8. Closing Prayer – Colleen