

November 2020 Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

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

Absent: Julie Andrews, Robert Dills, Matt Gibbons, and Maggie Helton

1. Prayer: Clare Charzewski

Prior to the opening prayer, the Council acknowledged our very own Clare for her recent Judge William Gaston Award in October. Congratulations Clare!

2. Minutes: Colleen Sutton

October 2020 minutes were reviewed, corrections made, and the minutes were approved.

3. Racial Justice Committee – Deacon Zeke

Deacon Zeke attended the council meeting via Zoom. He spoke to us about the Racial Justice Committee and addressed some of the concerns that the council had, about the direction that the committee plans to head. The Council wants to ensure that this new ministry is not trying to make a political statement; we want to know that the ministry is staying within the boundaries of the church's teaching on this subject; that it does include all people of various demographics that represent our parish; and does it have a Mission Statement? Deacon was able to explain that they want to start with the African American community due to recent events in the news that are happening around the country. Going into the future, the goal is to have outreach that will include all Races, Colors, Creeds, and National Origin. The committee's current plans are as follows:

- a. Reach out to the Reed Park Community and build a dialog with members of that community. To engage Sammy Currence, of our parish, to help us reach out to this community. His family is a large part of this area and attend Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Reed Park.
- b. To encourage more African Americans of the parish to participate with more ministries, i.e., music ministries, parish life, outreach ministries, spiritual life, altar servers, EMC, Ministers of Hospitality, Readers, etc.
- c. To encourage more diversity within our Youth Groups.
- d. To try and develop a program, like our Small Group Program, to discuss various topics that face our various demographics. (Maybe after Easter and into the Summer months.)
- e. Theresa Eze and Lawton Blandford discussed joining this ministry.

4. Evaluation of Virtual Faith Formation Fall Programs – All

Virtual Faith Formation is still in progress and is going well. Attendance has been down somewhat within all the programs. This is understandable, because the children/youth are also having to do schooling online. Can become tedious. There will be 44 children receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday the 21st of November.

5. Thanksgiving Meals Project – All

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the parish will not be having their regular Thanksgiving Day meals in the MAK Center. Instead, Peter Liberatore, from the Knights of Columbus reports that the parish will be providing meal kits to those that request them in the community. So far, the parish has donated 176 meal kits, plus \$1500.00 in cash to the project. Only 140 families have currently requested the meal kits. Because of the large amount of cash donations, pies are being purchased to go along with the 140 meal kits. We will deliver 87 meal kits and 53 will be pick up at the parish. Any extras left over will be donated to the Christmas Meal Box Ministry.

6. Advent Musical Reflection – All

Father Paul, Chrissy Glisson and Tom Calabro are working on a program to help build our spiritual health during the Advent Season. The plan is to have songs, scripture, and reflection time on Fridays starting December 4th and continuing December 11th and the 18th. Each event will be Live Streamed or can be attended in person (with our COVID-19 protocols in place). On Wednesday evening, from 06:00pm – 08:00pm, there will be Adoration of The Eucharist and The Sacrament of Reconciliation. Then for Christmas Eve Mass and Christmas Day Mass there will be an online sign-up sheet. The Mass times for Christmas Eve are 02:00pm, 04:00pm, 06:00pm and 08:00pm and Christmas Day is at 10:00am. The MAK Center will be used for overflow or parishioners can stay in their vehicles and watch the Live Stream.

7. Father Paul's Report – Father Paul

See Item #6 above, it contains what Father Paul had to report, i.e., Advent and Christmas' Masses.

8. Roundtable Discussions – All

- a. To remember to pray daily and encourage others to pray.
- b. Be a witness to our faith, especially during the Advent Season.
- c. Clare had mentioned that it would be nice to have a way to announce the deaths of parishioners in the parish, instead of finding out after the fact. It would be nice to be able to either attend the members service, send a card or to be able to offer condolences to the family. Unfortunately, due to privacy issues, we currently are not able to publish or print death notices.

9. Closing Prayer – Robbie Doran