

SEPTEMBER 2020 PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Members Present: Father Paul, Lawton Blandford, Julie Andrews, Colleen Sutton, Clare Charzewski, Therese Eze, Robert Dills, Robbie Doran, Jerry Gardner, Scott Phillips, and John Russell

Members Absent: Matt Gibbons, Maggie Helton, and Juan Saiz

1. Opening Prayer – Jerry Gardner

2. Minutes – Colleen Sutton

August 2020 Parish Pastoral Council minutes were reviewed and approved by the council.

3. Evaluation of First Communion and Confirmation – All

- a. Scott Phillips's daughter was one of the participants in the First Communion Rite. He felt everything went great and that it was beautifully done. Preparation and practice on the Wednesday before helped a lot in calming not only parents' nerves, but the little ones too. Father Paul did a great job.
- b. Father Paul shared his feelings that it went well for both rites and there has been no negative feedback. We were blessed to have Abbot Placid join us and participate in the Confirmation Rite.

4. Filling Vacant Seat on PPC – All

A long discussion was had about potential candidates. It was decided, since the Council will be having 6 current members rolling off in the spring (their 3-year term coming to an end,) we would table this topic until January or February of 2021 meetings.

5. How COVID-19 is affecting us as a Parish – All

- a. Father Paul was able to give us some numbers about in-person attendance at each Mass for the last 4 weeks. On average the numbers currently look like this: Saturday, 5:00pm = 64, Sunday, 9:15am = 92 and Sunday, 11:00am = 79. Since entering the State's Phase II reopening stage, our numbers have increased from the low 40's per Mass to the above averages. We have no numbers on the Spanish Mass attendance.

- b. Father Paul and the staff have decided to change the current verbiage in our bulletin from “Limited to 98 people” to “Limited Capacity”. Hopefully, with the State entering the Phase III reopening stage, this will encourage parish members to start returning to in-person Mass. Of course, our current safety protocols will remain in place, wearing mask, social distancing, entering the church through the front doors and exiting via the side doors, etc.
- c. In reference to the weekly offerings, 80% is being received through the on-line E-Give option. Weekly offerings are a little down, but we are holding our own for now. Ideas and options were discussed on how to be more pro-active and come up with ways on increasing the offerings. Hopefully, with the increase of in-person attendance, weekly offerings will increase.

6. Father Paul’s Report - Father Paul

- a. Because of COVID-19, in-person visitation of our sick had been discontinued. Jeanne LaFrancis, our Pastoral Associate, has still been reaching out via phone calls to our sick and shut-ins. Father Paul has decided that he will be making in-person visits now to nursing homes and people’s homes. He will be able to take communion (not at nursing homes), listen to confessions and offer the Anointing of the Sick Rite to those in need. Safety precautions for both locations are in place.
- b. Father Paul and the staff are still looking into holding Small Group events soon. This of course will be via virtual interaction.
- c. It has been decided since we cannot have our annual Trunk and Treat Event for our younger members, we will have a Drive-thru event. There will be bags of pre-wrapped candy passed out. This is scheduled for October 24th.
- d. The annual Thanksgiving meal has been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. The staff is in looking at doing food baskets instead, like we do at Christmas. This is still in the planning stage currently.
- e. For our Advent journey, one of the events that Father Paul will be offering is a live stream of The Stations of the Cross. This live stream can be viewed via your computer/laptop/phone or in the MAK Center, and in our Gathering Space. If you are comfortable you can attend in-person. Again, Safety Protocol will be in place.
- f. This years Angel Tree will have two locations, one in the Gathering Space and one in the Chapel area.

7. Roundtable Discussion – All

- a. Moving forward, instead of the reading of the minutes at each meeting, it will be each council members responsibility to review them prior to the meeting and make note of any changes and/or updates, or corrections etc. These will then be forwarded back to Colleen and minutes will be adjusted and then reviewed by all for approval.
- b. Starting next month, we will return to meeting in-person for those willing to do so. We will still have meetings available via Zoom. COVID-19 safety protocol will be in place at the MAK Center for those choosing to attend in-person. Wear a mask and social distance.
- c. There is some concern about our ministries that have been inactive since the virus outbreak. The concern is if those, that have been idle, will be reactivated. All our 72 ministries are particularly important to our church and our community. It was agreed that at future meetings, we will investigate which ministries can return and how they can return with safety as a top priority.
- d. Deacon Zeke has put together a group to discuss the current social injustice and racism situation in not only our community, but our nation. This new ministry will be called the Racial Justice Committee. It will be led by Deacon Zeke and Dr. Jerome Butler. They will be discussing what our Catholic faith teaches us about these topics and come up with an action plan going forward. The church has a lot of material on racism, but it may need to be revised and/or brought up to date, to see what we can do in the future. Let us remember, **Racism is a Sin!**

8. Closing Prayer – Lawton Blandford