



Pastoral Council Minutes

Date: 08/02/2022

Attendance:

Member	Present	Member	Present	Member	Present
Delynn Alexander	x	Shailesh Maingi	x	Mae Villanueva	
Msgr. Michael Clay	x	Mary Makhlof	x	Gladys Whitehouse	x
Fr. Alex Gonzalez	x	Kathy Sales	x	Mike Wrzesien	x
Tricia Henry	x	Cathy Smith	x		
Jacob House	x	Steve Vebber			

Guests: Dawn Smith, Chris Damico

AGENDA:

Location: Zoom and Anthony Conference Room

Presider: Fr. Michael Facilitator: Jacob Recorder: Cathy

1. Opening Prayer: Fr. Michael
2. Approval of Minutes
3. General Updates
 - a. Staff (invite Dawn, Jeanne, Chris for introductions)
 - b. Financial Update
 - c. Synod – where we are in the process
4. Old Business
 - a. Synodal Process Review
5. New Business
 - a. Academic year livestreaming – meeting needs of senior parishioners (e.g., stream different Mass vs have fewer children's Masses)
 - b. Flag presence within our buildings
6. Close
 - a. Next PC Meetings: Oct 4 (Feast of St. Francis), Nov 29
 - b. Closing Prayer: Fr. Alex

BUSINESS:

1. Opening Prayer: Fr. Michael
2. Approval of Minutes – Minutes were approved
3. General Updates
 - a. Dawn Smith, the new TFS principal, introduced herself. Chris Damico, the new Director of Engagement & Development, introduced himself. Jeanne Lewin, the new Director of Faith Formation, was unable to attend the meeting. Welcome to all!
 - b. Financial Update – See slides sent by Steve Vebber. Additional comments:
 - i. Cost of a Columbarium niche is increasing 20% which is in line with the area costs. The expense of the Columbarium expansion is from funds accrued for this purpose from past Columbarium incomes.
 - ii. Salary increases will be revisited in January, evaluated against the status of inflation.
 - iii. A project to upgrade security on the entire campus is planned. The security analysis as been completed. Project included upgrading cameras and adding cameras.

- c. Synod – where we are in the process
 - i. Our SFA diocesan document was submitted July 1. The diocese synthesis of the Synod input is planned for end of August.
 - ii. America magazine has a great article about the synod process.
 - 4. Old Business
 - a. Synodal Process Review – Next Steps
 - i. For our SFA diocesan document
 - 1. Employ the same level of energy used to publish results as was used to solicit input
 - a. Suggested publish methods: SFA TV, bulletin, parish website
 - b. Action: Plan document content rollout format, delivery method, schedule – Synod Team**
 - ii. For the parish level document (to date it is uncirculated)
 - 1. Action: Review and polish the content – Synod Team**
 - a. Suggested publish format: Slide deck for publishing on the parish website
 - 2. Action: Once polished, share the parish level document with PC, shortly followed by Staff**
 - 3. Rollout of both documents:
 - a. Create 15 – 20 minute video
 - b. Send thank you to participants as part of rollout of resulting documents
 - c. Hold town hall after video has been circulate for awhile
 - iii. Publish a timeline for the above
5. New Business
 - a. Academic year livestreaming – some senior parishioners are regular 9 AM streaming mass attendees and would like to have them be adult Masses vs. children's Masses
 - i. Tech crew is not interested in live streaming two masses each Sunday
 - ii. Need to define the problem – survey who is watching live stream mass
 - 1. Suggestion to use live Chat
 - 2. Use survey on demographics – have them complete survey before or during Mass, before the homily (when many drop off)
 - a. Shailesh volunteered to coordinate survey management and work with the tech crew on how to run it
 - b. Mike volunteered to coordinate the overall effort to define the problem
 - c. Action: Determine method to define the demographics and their preferences - Mike**
 - b. Flag presence within our buildings
 - i. Several parishioners have asked to have a presence of the American flag and the Vatican flag in the church (nave, main church)
 - ii. Flag use in the US is left to local bishop
 - iii. Guidance from the Raleigh Diocese: Flag use is left to parish but no flags should be in the sanctuary
 - iv. Historically, sentiment from SFA parishioners has been: no flags
 - v. History of flags in US Catholic churches originated from Catholics being accused of being more loyal to the Pope than the country
 - vi. Questions to explore:
 - 1. Are flags displayed in Catholic churches in other countries?

- vii. Thoughts FOR flags in church:
 - 1. Many parishioners are veterans and have strong loyalty to country, they see the flag as respectful to those that have served.
 - 2. Many feel the US is one of the best countries in the world, especially as viewed by some who have lived in other countries and see the flag as celebrating that.
- viii. Thoughts AGAINST flags in church:
 - 1. The US flag has been used, especially recently, as a divisive symbol. It's been used to abuse "others". Some would see the flag as divisive in the church.
 - 2. The church is a sacred place for God, where all are welcome. The flag can be unwelcoming if you are not a citizen or are otherwise uncomfortable with the representation of the flag.
 - 3. It is a nationalistic symbol in a church where nation should not have meaning.

6. Close

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