

**St. Mary's Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**07/11/2019**

Present: Fr. Alex Muddu (Pastor), David Biddulph, Anne Bradshaw (chair), Alvin Calhoun, Toni Lesko, Ron Wisniewski (ex-officio)

Absent: Pat Brim, Sue Brim (ex-officio), Deacon Dave Geary (ex-officio), Deacon Frank Leaming (ex-officio), Jose Lugo, Ben Stinson

Call to Order: Anne Bradshaw (7:10 p.m.)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June meeting were approved as written, with one correction – the July Deanery meeting/luncheon was also for parish staff. Amended notes were provided to the parish office.

Fr. Alex's Remarks:

- Fr. Alex will be on vacation from 7/29-9/4.
  - Masses on all four weekends and the Feast of the Assumption will be covered by diocesan priests. There will be no daily masses during the month of August.
  - Emergency calls will be coordinated through the deacons.
- There will be no PPC meeting in August.
- One item Father Alex discussed with the Dean at the July Deanery meeting/luncheon was the new diocesan rule that altar servers and clergy may not dress in the sacristy together.
  - Our church will need to determine another space for the altar servers.
  - For now, Father Alex will dress well in advance of Mass and leave the sacristy so that the altar servers can dress alone.
  - Ron asked if we could keep the same arrangement going forward as long as we ensured another non-clergy adult was present. Father Alex said the Dean emphasized the firm diocesan position that the spaces must be separate.
- Father passed around a thank you note from Caroline Emergency Relief through Volunteer Efforts (CERVE) for our parish's \$200 donation.
  - Thanks to Sue Brim for coordinating the donation.
  - Father also noted that Gloria Bolecek has delivered the first wave of our parish's Summer Food Program donations to a local pick-up point, and the staff there was overwhelmed by our church's generosity.
  - Father will post the CERVE thank you note on the bulletin board.
- Father noted the porch ceiling at the rectory is sagging. The assumption is a leak due to overpacked gutters, which Ben plans to clean out this month.
- Father noted that Phil and Cathy Poole, who have helped manage the food pantry for a number of years, have resigned that post. Carl and Sandy Pessolano, who also helped manage the food pantry, left their keys in the parish office last weekend. Although the Pessolanos did not contact Father, he is assuming they are also resigning from Food Pantry ministry.
  - Father will ensure they are thanked for their service.
  - Mrs. Poole left a document with Father outlining the duties involved in managing Food Pantry, which he distributed to the council.

- Father Alex has spoken to a few parishioners about possibly stepping up to take over the program, but no one has agreed to do so yet.
- We will canvas the parish via the bulletin beginning the weekend of 7/20. It was suggested that we also separately send a note to the current list of food pantry volunteers to see if any of them would be interested.
- Anne noted that, although the document outlines how the Pooles and Pessolanos have been running Food Pantry, there is nothing stopping us from changing the way we do things to better meet the needs of our parish and whoever takes over. Some tasks need to be done every week, but we can step back and figure out how to make it work for us now that we are undergoing a leadership change.
  - For instance, can someone who lives in the Fredericksburg area make the food bank pick-up and drop it off on Sundays versus leaving it on the to-do list as a mid-week task? Could the stock be checked on Sundays after Mass to make a plan for the week versus doing it during the week?
  - David noted the food bank has requirements for who can pick up food – a food bank ID is required, for example – so coordinating the pick-up would be limited to a few people who are approved to do so.
- Anne suggested canvassing for a small group of parishioners to manage the food pantry versus looking for one person to serve as “food pantry manager.” A small group could divide the weekly tasks, and the more people we have involved, the less likely we are to be put in this situation again if someone were to leave or resign from the ministry.
- After discussion, the group agreed. Anne will send a draft to Father and write a note for the food pantry volunteers.

Unfinished Business:

- CERVE
  - The food collection for the Summer Food Program was implemented the weekend of 7/6; a large volume of food was donated by parishioners.
  - Gloria Bolecek agreed to transport the food during the week to one of the churches in the area that serves as a pick-up point for families.
- Parish Picnic
  - Anne contacted Shonnie Carroll, who coordinated the picnic last year. She was willing to coordinate again but requested the date be moved to October. She said she received positive feedback last year on having the picnic in cooler weather (last year it was rescheduled from the usual September date to late October due to a hurricane).
  - The PPC agreed on 10/20 as the new date for the parish picnic.
- Update from the Finance Council
  - The budget was turned in to the diocese.
  - Ron is working on the parish’s annual report pending June figures. This will be sent to the bishop, and then Ron will make a summary report to the parish – most likely in September.

- Ministries:

- Haiti Twinning/Scholarships

- Alvin contacted Dorothy Summers about the possibility of adding another scholarship, per last month's discussion based on the finance council's report.
    - Dorothy said the students don't take their end-of-year exams until the end of June, so she does not know yet how many students passed. We need that information to determine how many of this year's students will be eligible to benefit from our scholarships again next year.
      - Dorothy contacted the priest in Haiti to request this information.
    - We will table this discussion until September when we should have additional info.

- Religious Education:

- Father Alex followed up with Gina Stargel about the list of topics she provided last month. He asked her to divide it by weeks – more like a syllabus. He also encouraged her to use Flocknote more to communicate with parents about what is going on in each class, and he said he would remind her about doing this as the year goes on.
    - One of our parishioners in the Confirmation class, who did not attend the Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral last month, will be confirmed by Father Alex this weekend.

- Fundraising:

- The free storage unit at Village Self Storage was emptied on 6/30. All remaining items were taken to Good Will; broken items were taken to the trash.
    - Anne drafted a thank you letter to Village Self Storage from the parish; Sue Brim will coordinate Father Alex's signature.
    - Anne proposed using some of the proceeds to supplement a few ministries with immediate needs.
      - She proposed spending up to \$300 on something fun for kids to do at the picnic, like a bounce house, which was suggested by Shonnie Carroll. The council approved.
      - The Detainee Center/Prison Ministry is in need of more hymnals and/or Spanish bibles. Anne has contacted Jose about the pricing but has not gotten a response. Depending on the cost for these items, she proposed using fundraising proceeds to help out this ministry, which was approved.
    - Maria Bridge has proposed hosting a karaoke night at St. Mary's in conjunction with a dinner this summer as a fundraiser.
      - The council agreed summer was a bad time since a lot of families are on vacation and/or getting ready for back to school.
      - Father suggested finding a suitable date in the fall that does not conflict with any of the already scheduled fundraisers.
      - David suggested trying to do something different than a dinner – like karaoke and desserts, since that's more informal than a dinner.
      - Father asked what the exact plan would be; Anne questioned if there would be any costs associated with it, like renting a machine.

- Anne will check the dinner/bingo fundraising calendar and go back to Maria with possible dates. She will also request a firmer plan and answers to proposed questions.

#### Adult Faith Formation:

- Alvin brought Bishop Barron's book *Letter to a Suffering Church*, which he has finished reading. The book is Bishop Barron's reflection on the Church's sexual abuse crisis. He thought it might be something to consider parish-wide.
  - Father Alex is currently reading the book, too. He thought it could possibly be something to consider during Lent, but he wants to finish reading it before making a decision.

#### RCIA:

- Two parishioners will be confirmed on Sunday, 9/29, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

#### Detainee/Prison Ministry:

- Deacon Frank has begun Prison Ministry at the Caroline Correctional Unit (update provided via email).

#### Counters:

- Joan Cormier reported via email that she has separated the counter list into two groups: Counters and Safe Depositors. Safe Depositors are not trained as Counters, but Counters could do both.
- Joan also noted that the Counters ministry added a new member – Mary Smith will be a depositor.

#### Greeters:

- Anne requested Father's permission to get the Greeter/Welcome pamphlet printed via Vista Print. He approved and told Anne to contact Sue Brim, because the parish has a Vista Print account.

#### • Infrastructure/Facilities (provided via email):

- The French drain project has been completed.
- The contractor agreed to come back and "cold-fill" the cracks they missed when they completed the hot crack fill work. However, Ben still thinks they missed some spots and has requested the invoice not be paid until they complete the work.
- Ben sprayed the rectory driveway with vegetation killer last week and will be power washing the front of the house and steps this coming weekend if the weather cooperates.
- Caroline County mowed the side of the road to the east of the entrance, but the growth on the side of the bank still hinders the view of westbound traffic.
  - The council felt we could probably try just weed whacking it ourselves.
- Steve Gajdos met with the Gilman rep to have the heat pump for the narthex checked since we were not getting air conditioning in there. He reported that the compressor on the heat pump no longer works. It is very old and needs replaced. This is the one that was leaking freon and water into the narthex.

- Steve inquired if we are required to get three bids, even though we have a contract with Gilman, which would save us about 15% on costs and labor.
  - Ron said he thought the three bids was a diocesan requirement.
  - Anne will follow up with Steve to see if he has any bids at this point.
- The ceiling tiles and track will need to be removed to complete this work. Steve recommends we consider replacing the tiles because they are water-stained.
- Steve also reminded the council that the ice maker is still not being used and suggested we get someone to look at it. If it's still good, it could be cleaned, checked for leaks, etc.
  - The council agreed that the ice maker was a necessity considering the events we host.
  - Ron suggested a few area companies that do small appliance repairs.
- Living Our Mission Funds:
  - Anne met with someone about the possibility of a modular building as another option for use of the funds. The council discussed pros/cons of this idea and agreed it was worth further discussion.
    - Ron thinks he might be able to come up with a local distributor for a non-HUD product.
    - David suggested considering "pole barn" construction, if it's decided that a manufactured building is an option for consideration.

New Business:

- None

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 p.m.

There will be no PPC meeting in August. Next regular PPC meeting: Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.