



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 2021

PURPOSE:

To discuss parish-wide committee activities and needs to include implementing the strategic plan.

Committee Reports.

Faith Formation (Sister Augusta)

- The Lenten Parish Mission “Living in God’s Presence” featured recorded presentations by globally recognized author Father Jacques Philippe. Sister Mary Agnes, OP, facilitated each of the Sunday sessions.
- Marriage Date Night continues.
- Grade level faith formation will be offered.
- RCIA has two catechumens and one candidate preparing for the Easter Vigil. Twelve others are in the RCIA journey but will not come in the church this Easter.
- This year is devoted to Saint Joseph. Join fellow parishioners for a Consecration to Saint Joseph beginning April 11-May 13. Parishioners may attend in person or by Zoom. Visit the Saint James website to register or contact Sister Mary Agnes.

Finance (Eric Filburn for Greg Schrecke)

The Finance Committee met on March 15. The immediate goals are to get a new roof on the school and to set up a long-term maintenance program in the school’s budget.

Mission Advancement and Stewardship (Jennifer Moran)

- Saint James School (SJS) completed its early enrollment for current SJS families two weeks prior to open enrollment. PreK-grade 8 has retained 90% of its students despite 18 students withdrawing. Exit surveys were sent to those leaving to better determine the reasons for their departure. A large loss occurred with five preschoolers not returning for kindergarten. Eight students K-8 have not yet reenrolled. There will be a preschool push in April.
- There was a mass exit in 2020 directly related to COVID concerns. Ten of those students are returning to SJS in the 2021-2022 school year – they have been given advanced opportunity to register as returning students.
- School tours successfully continue.
- **Projected** enrollment is 355, up 13 from last year. Current enrollment is 342 (preschool-grade 8). This is a good number since we are a tuition-based school. Jennifer reported that the school will have to get creative in classrooms on spacing requirements if COVID restrictions remain. This may result in split grade class if a child needs extra help in understanding. No more than 25 students in a classroom, 50 students to each grade.

Parish Life (Lorna Vetrees)

- Forever Young, Widow Friends Group, Bereavement, Cultural Diversity and the Rosary Making committees have not met this year.
- The Playgroup will expand this year.
- The Knights of Columbus (KC) Brotherhood Banquet was held virtually.
- The 2021 Parish Picnic committee has met twice.

School Board (Coty Oropilla)

- A service project to give care baskets is underway in memory of Tai Lee, a SJS student killed in a car accident.
- The SJS Passion Play will be the end of the month.
- April 5-9 is spring break.
- Black & White Knight was held virtually and made \$25,000.00.
- Eighty percent of school staff has been vaccinated.
- MAP scores are trending higher than some other schools in Louisville Archdiocese.

Social Concerns (Mimi Pike)

- Room in the Inn ended February 28th. This year SVDP Outreach helped with coats. Room in the Inn served over 80 people. It was successful having it at the old fire department. The city will help them look for a new space to be in this winter.
- AD Alicna's trailer was stolen from the locked lot in back of St. Vincent DePaul store. The store has been robbed several times. New 360-degree lighting will be installed.

Worship (Jeff Lanz)

- Applicable committees are preparing for Easter.

Youth (Father Kirby)

Confirmation went well.

Strategic Plan Implementation.

Communication Pillar (Jennifer Moran and Randy Moore)

- The parish-wide survey confirmed that current communication is good, yet we need social media via Facebook Page or an app.
- Jennifer asked different age groups how they would like communication, texting, remind app, were also included in the communication to go along with e-news. Some still wanted paper bulletins. Ages 60-80 said text message for any changes of scheduled meetings would also be helpful. All groups need a streamlined communication to know when deadlines are.
- All of these would be labor intensive. Possibly need to hire someone for this action step. Randy suggested to look at current staff to see requirements of their jobs. He said possibly have outside perspective to look at current staff.

Evangelization (Mimi Pike, Lou Edmondson, Yana Whelan)

- The Evangelization team researched best practices with the Archdiocese of Louisville, the USSCB and other sources. Following that they met with Sister Mary Agnes to learn from her Evangelization practices. Sister Mary Agnes said to evangelize one step, one person at a time. Bring Jesus to everyone.
- The Evangelization message will start with educating parish council members.

Faith Formation (Sister Augusta, Father Kirby, Grace Filburn, Cheri Ellis-reeves)

An assessment of 6-10 questions will be developed to determine the on-going faith formation needs for those 55 and over. The assessment will be administered by mail and email.

Fellowship (Coty Oropilla, Paula Knowles, Lorna Vertrees)

Stewardship Ministry Training for ministry chairs was completed earlier in March. Sister Mary Agnes and Father Michael facilitated the two sessions. The committee's next step is to research and develop an ambassador program.

Finance (Greg Schrecke, Eric Filburn)

The parish debt is decreasing from school going to tuition.

Worship (Jeff Lanz, John Godfrey, Jackie and Daniel Ortiz)

Jeff said Holy Week will look different due to COVID. Plans are underway and will be posted to the church website.

Father Kirby closed the meeting at 7:35pm.

Next Meeting – April 13, 2021

Questions/Recommendations? Contact the parish council directly at: parishcouncil@sjschoolonline.org or [Lou Edmondson at 502.777.7025](tel:502.777.7025)