

APPROVED AT THE 11/10/20 MEETING

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES October 13, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

Dave Bender, Lauren Brinkman, Melanie Crowe, Fr. Earl Fernandes, Kirk Fischesser, Donna Frazee (Recording Secretary), Chris Kief, Larry Kiefer, Brandon Kramer, Michelle Kroeger, Julie Krommer, Sarah Mierke, Angela Roos, and Larry Sickman.

OPENING PRAYER: Led by Lauren Brinkman

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES:

Sarah Mierke made a motion to approve the September 2020 meeting minutes and October 2020 addendum. She was seconded by Angela Roos. Motion passed unanimously.

JUBILEE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Melanie Crowe reported on some the current initiatives of the Jubilee Committees:

- 1) Christmas Tree Ornament Contest:** Every Christmas, ornaments commemorating the parish communities of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati (AOC) hang on the large Christmas tree at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. The current St. Ignatius ornament is at least 30 years old. As a Jubilee initiative, the parish is currently holding a contest to choose a new ornament. Entries are being accepted for either the parish or the school, in several age categories. Gift cards will be awarded to the winning entries in each category; the top 2 ornaments will be sent downtown for the tree. The deadline for entries has been extended to October 26.
- 2) Mass for Healthcare Workers:** The Mass honoring healthcare workers will take place on October 18, at Noon, on the lower ball fields. Following the Mass, there will be a blessing for healthcare workers, Eucharistic Procession, food trucks, and activities for the children. Signage will advertise Raffle 365, the Jubilee Commemorative Ale pre-sale, and the upcoming Virtual Bid and Buy.
- 3) Virtual Bid & Buy:** The Virtual Bid & Buy is designed to bring us together safely while enabling the parish to replace the lost IggyFest income due to COVID restrictions. The parish is accepting goods, services, cash, collectibles, or unique experiences that would draw big interest (best sellers for these types of events are typically experiences rather than goods). Amazon and Target shopping lists have been created for ease of donation. Kick-off will be around Nov 1 and the event will run for a couple of weeks. The event will be hosted on the QTego app.
- 4) Spotlight Feature:** The Jubilee Steering Committee would like to create some sort of storytelling feature to highlight the many groups active at our parish and their histories, as a way to generate a deeper level of encounter within our community and inspire the next generation.
- 5) Jubilee Subcommittees:** There are 6 subcommittees: Social, Worship/Spirituality, Education, Community Outreach, Stewardship, and Communications.

FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT:

- 1) Financials for the Month Ended 08/31/20:**

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- a) **Parish Actual Net Loss:** (\$24,000)
Parish Budgeted Net Loss: (\$57,000)
Actual results are approximately \$33,000 better than budget:
- i. Sunday donations are approximately \$7000 above budget.
 - ii. Actual expenses for building maintenance are approximately \$20,000 less than budget through August 31.
- b) **School Actual Net Loss:** (\$150,000)
School Budgeted Net Loss: (\$170,000)
Actual results are approximately \$20,000 better than budget:
- i. Total tuition (Preschool and K-8 combined) is above budget by \$26,000.
 - ii. Total expenses are very close to budget.
- 2) **Financial Report to Parish on 9/27:** All parish households received a pamphlet with a high-level financial report of the past fiscal year. Fr. Fernandes also provided a lengthy analysis in the bulletin and spoke at all of the Masses the weekend of September 27. While our parish reserves are healthy, they are not what they once were due to large deficit spending, especially during the last four years. Deficits on the school side have risen to nearly \$1 million (\$993,000) in 2019-2020. Finance Council (FC) and Pastoral Council (PC) have proposed a budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year that projects a budget loss of nearly another million (\$970,000), including a \$614,000 loss for the school and nearly \$310,000 in expenses for the construction of the pre-school and school roof.
Fr. Fernandes indicated tonight that most of the responses he has received to the report have been positive, with many people commenting that they were unaware of the deficits.
- 3) **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Small Business Loan Update:** The parish was granted a roughly \$1 million PPP loan. Per the rules of the program, October 24 is the deadline to apply to have the loan forgiven. The parish will do so, with assistance from the AOC's Certified Public Accountant. If granted, the loan write-off would offset most of next year's budgeted losses for the parish and school.
- 4) **Finance Council School Committee:** FC School Committee will be meeting on October 14 to review and gather background context on the school financials since 2017. A second meeting has tentatively been set for October 28. The school's current tuition is still one of the most affordable in the diocese; but given the deficits, an increase is forecast, and the parish may also have to reevaluate tuition rates for new families living outside parish boundaries, as well as to institute per-pupil subsidy limits.
- 5) **Parish Budgeting Process/Timeline:** PC, FC, and the Business Office are all in agreement that the parish budgeting process needs to be done in a timelier fashion. PC Chairman Kirk Fischesser made a strong request to FC and the Business Office to have the next fiscal year's draft budget ready by December, so that PC has the necessary time to review, ask questions, and vote.
- 6) **Buildings and Grounds Committee:** Facilities expenses have been quite high for the last couple of years, and the Maintenance team has worked hard to patch up aging equipment that is nearing the end of its lifespan. The committee will be undertaking a major physical plant inventory to assess current and future needs and create a planned replacement timeline.

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WORSHIP COMMISSION REPORT:

Julie Krommer reported that in-person attendance at all Sunday Masses continues to increase, and overflow seating with livestreaming is now available in Loyola Hall for the 10:15am and Noon Masses. Many complaints have arisen over reception of Communion on the tongue and the potential for the spread of coronavirus germs. The Archdiocese is strongly discouraging reception on the tongue, but it recognizes the faithful's right to do so. Fr. Fernandes is evaluating a couple of options that will better balance the rights of those who wish to receive on the tongue with the safety of all communicants. Christmas Mass planning has already begun, and the Masses will look quite different due to COVID restrictions. With rising pandemic spread, it is unlikely that the current dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday and holyday-of-obligation Masses will be lifted before Christmas.

There are many upcoming events, including the Healthcare Mass (10/18), National Vocation Awareness Week (11/1-11/7), 2 Memorial Masses on the Feast of All Souls (11/2), the rescheduled 50th Anniversary Mass with the Papal Nuncio (11/4), the Nuncio's blessing of the new preschool wing (11/4), 2 Confirmation Masses for the 8th graders (11/5), and the Nuncio's visit with school faculty (11/6).

FOLLOW-UPS FROM LAST MEETING:

- 1) **EthicsPoint Update:** No new updates.
- 2) **Festival Committee "Community-Building and Fundraising" Ideas:** The Festival Committee brainstormed a wealth of ideas for activities/events across the next year that could both foster community-building and generate revenue in lieu of the cancelled IggyFest 2020. Many of these ideas could be incorporated into Jubilee Committee planning. To prevent a blurring of lines between the two entities (Festival/Jubilee), and the potential for donor fatigue that might occur, the Festival team has finished for the year with the conclusion of the Main Award Raffle. Oversight for initiatives begun after Labor Day will rest with the Jubilee Committee. Pandemic accommodations have to be factored into the planning of every event going forward.
- 3) **Rescheduled Papal Nuncio's Visit:** Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Papal Nuncio to the United States, will make an historic visit to St. Ignatius Loyola parish from November 4-6. Several events have been planned (please see Worship Commission report, above), chief among which is the Mass commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the current church, which will take place on November 4, at 7pm. All PC members and their spouses are asked to attend this Mass. Due to COVID capacity restrictions, seating at the Anniversary Mass will be limited, so the Mass will be livestreamed.
- 4) **Jubilee Steering Committee:** Please see the above report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Distribution of PC By-laws:** Kirk Fischesser distributed copies of PC's current By-laws. He also outlined the new procedures for submitting online votes. Online votes are submitted to 2 parties: **a)** the Chair and Vice Chair of Council, or **b)** the Chair of Council and the Pastoral Associate for Parish Resources and Stewardship. This is done so that there is a check in place for safety reasons. Council currently has 11 members, so once 6 votes come in, the

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item passes/fails. When Council has 12 members, the Pastor will serve to break any tie votes.

- 2) **Parish Council Votes on \$5K and Over Expenditures/Donations:** Per the AOC *Document on Temporal Affairs*, any capital expenditure (buildings, furniture, equipment, charitable donations) in excess of \$5000 requires consultation with the Pastoral Council. Any expenditure of \$25,000 or more needs the approval of the Pastoral Council; the contracts for those items are signed by the Archbishop (and presume the pastor's consent as well).
- 3) **One Open Spot on Pastoral Council:** Donna Frazee has agreed to fill the open voting member spot for the term ending in June 2023. She will continue to serve as Recording Secretary throughout her term.
- 4) **Safety Expectations for Facilities Use:** Council reviewed and gave input on a draft document outlining the safety expectations for use of any St. Ignatius parish facility during the current pandemic. It was noted that Hamilton County Public Health might be a good resource to further refine the guidelines. Fr. Fernandes will finalize the guidelines and have them printed on flyers to be posted throughout the campus. The parish now has up to 3 Zoom accounts that can be used simultaneously, so this option is also available for groups that want to meet remotely.
- 5) **Christmas Tree Ornament for Cathedral:** Please see Jubilee Committee report, above.
- 6) **Thanksgiving Day Mass Planning:** Michelle Kroeger, PC Vice Chairwoman, will be coordinating this event. The Mass will be held on November 26, at 9:15am. Call to Worship: Angela Roos; 1st Reading: Kirk Fischesser; 2nd Reading: Michelle Kroeger; Petitions: Deacon; Greeters: Chris Kief, Dave Bender, Carol Pieper (maybe), Nick Roos (maybe). There will be no reception after Mass this year, due to the pandemic.

PASTOR'S COMMENTS

- 1) **Potential Trial of Former Pastor:** Today, October 13, the judge denied the defense's request to dismiss the charges against Geoffrey Drew. The trial will go forward, and is scheduled to begin in April of 2021. Fr. Fernandes is drafting a pastoral letter to the parish addressing the latest developments of the situation.
- 2) **Other Items:**
 - a) **Raffle 365:** This fundraiser replaced the School's Magazine Drive. To date, Raffle 365 has brought in \$81,000, and discussion is ongoing regarding the use of these funds to offset the school's deficit.
 - b) **End-of-Year-Giving Opportunities:** With Giving Tuesday and End-of-Year Giving campaigns coming up in the next 2 months, we need to identify the projects/needs that will benefit from these giving campaign funds.
 - c) **Follow Up on AOC Assessment:** It has been a year since the first education piece on how funds from the Archdiocesan Assessment are used and benefit the parish. Fr. Fernandes asked PC to give some thought to the merits of revisiting the topic, perhaps in conjunction with End-of-Year Giving opportunities.

CLOSING PRAYER: Led by Chris Kief

NEXT MEETING: November 10, 2020, at 7 PM, in Loyola Hall