

## **St. James Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

May 12, 2021

**Present:** Terry Brecklin, Sharon Young, Kim Cavaliero-Keller, Lisa Kovalski, Deacon Sandy Sites, Scott Granicki, Tim Khoury, Jill Lehnen, Chuck Demge, Joe Gonzalez, Chris Lodl, John Walker, Matthew Lehner, Sal Vasquez

Terry called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and Sharon Young opened us in prayer.

### **Strategic Planning:**

Lisa shared updates around strategic planning. She said that the committee is looking at getting additional information around the question "my parish supports me." A survey was sent out to gather additional information (sent to pastoral council, finance council, Christian Formation families, parish staff). The younger demographic and oldest demographic answered negatively to this question compared to middle-aged people.

### **New Business:**

Council Membership – An article went into the bulletin to recruit to new members; we will ask Christian Formation to share info regarding Pastoral Council vacancies with the CF families.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Christian Formation** - Jill reported that they did not meet this past month. Christian Formation asked that we talk about how to get additional members onto the committee and brainstorm any agenda items.

**Prayer and Worship** - Matthew reported that the choir presence is starting to increase.

**Stewardship** - has not met.

**Human Concerns** - Tim reported that the committee met, however he was not able to attend.

**Finance** - John Walker reported that the council is working on the budget for next fiscal year that is due by mid-June. John shared that there are no major changes. Minor updates to budget include hiring a liturgy assistant at about 3 hours/week. The personnel committee is now officially formed.

### **Parish Directors Report:**

Deacon Sandy reported that the **Catholic Comeback** continues. When ordinary time resumes in a few weeks we will resume communion to the homebound. We will also go to our summer mass schedule in June.

**Abuse scandal-** Deacon Sandy reported that the attorney general opened a new investigation into clergy abuse. Sue Devine-Simon is our safe environment coordinator for the parish. We take this seriously, there is a prayer that gets offered, there is a link on our website to report any suspected abuse.

**All are Welcome sign** - There was discussion about the potential sign that we would display outside by the street to make the All are Welcome more inclusive and visible. The council discussed the meaning of the sign. Deacon Sandy asked us to look up catechism 2358 which states how we are to treat the LGBTQ community. This sign is a welcome mat that opens the door to a relationship to having a conversation with all. Some council members were concerned that while the intent is good, the sign may cause unintended consequences.

Deacon Sandy asked that council members continue the discussion privately without him, so he signed off while the conversation continued. There was agreement that each council member send Terry an email letting her know a “yes” or “no” to indicate if they are in favor or not in favor of the new All are Welcome sign. Terry will collect the votes and report the outcome. She will also share the conversation highlights with the Strategic Planning committee.

The meeting closed at 8:27 PM.