

## **AUGUST 2020 PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Father Paul, Lawton Blandford, Julie Andrews, Colleen Sutton, Clare Charzewski, Therese Eze, Robert Dills, Robbie Doran, Jerry Gardner, Scott Phillips, John Russell, and Juan Saiz

**Members Absent:** Matt Gibbons and Maggie Helton

### **1. Opening Prayer – Theresa Eze**

### **2. Around the Horn Introductions - All**

Prior to the reading of the minutes, each council member present took the opportunity to introduce themselves to our new pastor, Father Paul. We stated our names, professions, how long we had been with the parish, family information, ministries we are active with, etc. and we welcomed him with open arms. Father Paul then introduced himself and gave us his background information, along with his faith journey into becoming a Priest.

### **3. Minutes – Colleen Sutton**

June 2020 Parish Pastoral Council minutes were reviewed and approved by the council.

### **4. Report on Virtual Summer Faith Formation Programs – All**

- a. Vacation Bible School (VBS): Program was presented virtually. Council members that had children who participated in this event were extremely impressed. The program was done very professionally. Material was on point. Their children enjoyed the program immensely. Only negative feedback was that some of the areas of the program were a little long, based on children's ages.
- b. Faith Formation Summer Program: Program was presented virtually. We had 60 children that participated in this program this summer. This is around the same amount that participated last year. Again, this was a positive experience and professionally done. Stations of the Cross was a part of the program this year and feedback was excellent.

Virtual learning will continue at the parish, starting with the regular Faith Formation Program this fall.

## **5. Younger Person to Serve on the Council Discussion – All**

We again discussed the goal of reaching out to a young, active member of the parish to join our council. We agreed requirements would be single and under 25 years of age. A few names were mentioned. Various members will reach out to these members and see if they have an interest in filling out an application. Diversity is our goal for this council.

## **6. Father Paul's Report: Father Paul**

- a. This month, 45 children will be participating in their First Blessed Sacrament of The Eucharist. There will be 3 masses on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the child plus 4 other family/friend members will be able to attend in person.
- b. On Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, our candidates for The Sacrament of Confirmation will be anointed. Abbot Placid from Belmont Abbey Monastery will be performing this rite. We have a total of 24 candidates who will receive the Seal of the Holy Spirit.
- c. Father Paul reminded us of Pope Francis' message, that Jesus is the Divine Physician. It is wise to keep this image in the back of our minds. To pray for not only physical healing, but our Spiritual healing and remember the Sacraments. Our community will move forward. We are a Home for All. Jesus is important to his people, as we are important to Jesus. We pray to keep all of us safe.
- d. In the short time that Father Paul has been with us, he states the Parish Staff has been extremely helpful in getting him settled into his daily routine.
- e. Also, because of COVID-19, it has been frustrating being limited to meeting parish members in person. Whether this is through Mass or the various Ministries that are represented with meetings or gatherings.
- f. In reference to the Hispanic Mass and their community, he has not yet had the opportunity to meet with Father Jose.

## **7. Roundtable Discussion – All**

- a. Our Trunk and Treat Event in October has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. The Thanksgiving Meal Celebration is still under discussion currently.
- c. The hope to still be able to have our Small Group program for Advent. This too will probably have to be done virtually. It was mentioned that it would be nice to have some type of Small Group Virtual programs now. This would help with those feeling lonely, disengaged, missing their church family, etc.

- d. We all miss our church family and being able to be to gather without restrictions
- e. and in person.

**8. Closing Prayer – Robert Dills**