

St. John Vianney Parish Council Minutes

September 15, 2020

6:30 PM Zoom Meeting

Present: Jeff Adams, Walter Burke, Deacon Paul Lambert, Sheila Liotta, Kim McCarthy, Tess Motta, Fr. Joe Pescatello, Catherine Sulima, Michael Woody, Regina Bamford (Faith Formation)

- **Call to order**

Kim McCarthy called the meeting to order. The meeting opened with a prayer from Fr. Joe.

- **Parish Update**

Fr. Joe informed the council that work will begin to replace the church roof next Monday. The skylight must also be replaced.

Construction has been completed on the new rectory. The costs came in slightly under budget. Furniture is still being delivered, but Fr. Joe expects to be moving in the week of September 28th.

Donations are down but, given the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, parish finances will be weaker but stable.

Regina Bamford reported that there will be ten First Communion candidates this fall, and two or three Confirmation candidates. These are young people who, for various reasons, could not participate in the spring ceremonies. First Communion will take place during a regularly scheduled Mass in the 3rd or 4th weekend of October. Confirmation will take place during a regularly scheduled Mass in November.

CCD will consist of home learning with periodic in-person gatherings. These small group gatherings are particularly important for children who are preparing for a sacrament. The necessary protocols and social distancing requirements will be followed for all in-person gatherings.

We will continue to use the Dynamic Catholic materials for the First Communion, First Penance and Confirmation programs. These materials are provided to the parish at no charge.

Tess Mota asked whether young people who participate in Zoom meetings will be required to have an adult with them during the meetings. Regina answered that the Diocese has not yet provided guidance on that issue, but that thus far there have been no issues with young people participating on their own.

Other Business

Kim McCarthy received a note from someone concerned that the questions asked when parents of CCD candidates are interviewed were “unwelcoming.” The council agreed that the current process is appropriate. Deacon Paul suggested that we explain our question concerning Mass

attendance by explaining that we are simply trying to do the best job that we can for their children, and that we can only do the best job if the parents attend Mass.

Catherine asked if/when parents would be receiving the CCD curriculum schedule. Regina responded that calendars will be distributed soon, and that monthly e-mails will be sent providing supplemental information.

Paul announced that the Music Ministry will be meeting via Zoom on Thursday to determine how to incrementally incorporate more music into the Masses. He suggested that we begin with one or two instrumentalists, socially distanced and wearing masks, who would play yet not sing. The council agreed that it would be a safe and appropriate first step. Having a choir at Mass is far more problematic, but a single cantor may be considered at some point in the future.

Kim asked Fr. Joe whether/when weekly bulletins will be reintroduced. Fr. Joe said that at some point we probably will, but not at the present time.

Tess asked Fr. Joe if other events such as a First Friday service or a gathering of certain ministries might be considered. Fr. Joe expressed concerns that unsupervised gatherings could be dangerous if participants do not follow Covid guidelines, putting the parish at risk of being shut down if an outbreak occurs. It could also lead to some groups feeling badly if they are not allowed to congregate. Paul suggested that the council consider creating a plan for incrementally opening up the church to ministries. The plan would set criteria based on the number of people participating and the nature of the gathering. Kim suggested that Tess create a list of ministry gatherings that would be least risky and present it at our next council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.