

## **St. John Vianney Parish Council Minutes**

**October 6, 2020**

**6:30 PM Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Jeff Adams, Pat Bradley, Orin Cook, Deacon Paul Lambert, Sheila Liotta, Kim McCarthy, Tess Motta, Fr. Joe Pescatello, Veronica Plante, 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.

- **Covid 19 Protocols**

Fr. Joe reported on the feedback he received from Dr. Flanagan, a deacon in our diocese who field infectious diseases. Dr. Flanagan passed along to us the diocesan guidelines (see below) for reopening the church to devotional groups.

Kim asked how we can best communicate these guidelines to the parish so that they understand why certain groups may have access to the church building and others may not. Fr. Joe responded the point is moot until the new roof on the church is completed and the skylight is replaced. This will not be until November at the earliest as it was discovered that the new shingles on the roof are defective and need to be replaced, as well as the layers of plywood under the shingles.

Paul mentioned the new CDC guidelines that included information on the relatively long amount of time that droplets from someone infected with Covid 19 can remain in room after they have left the area. Tess noted that masks would mitigate that risk.

Fr. Joe stated that he would consult again with Dr. Flanagan before the decision is made to reopen the church to devotional groups. As noted in Dr. Flanagan's guidelines, at a minimum group leaders would be required to maintain contact tracing sheets for all those who attend devotional gatherings.

Tess will compile informational guidelines for review at our next meeting.

### **Youth Ministry**

Veronica Plante (Youth Ministry) informed the council that her continuing vision is to create opportunities for youth to interact with various ministries in the parish.

She recently polled 45 youngsters to ask whether they would be willing to be part of a leadership team that would act as mentors to confirmation candidates. Fifteen came forward. Twelve members of that group participated in a video, now posted on YouTube, during which

they answer questions about how Covid 19 has affected their school year, and how their faith and faith community has supported them during the crisis. Below is a link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lQU2nQxlzU&t=9s>

**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Fr. Joe spoke with Dr. Flanagan, a deacon in our Diocese whose field is infectious diseases. He is on the board to establish Covid protocols for the USCCB (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops) and for our Diocese. They spoke about tentative plans for reopening the church to specific groups. Based on their discussion, the following considerations must be made:

1. We must limit the groups that will be meeting in the church (and we cannot allow any outside groups, such as the scouts, to use the church).
2. The church will be open to students, teachers, and staff in our Faith Formation program, which will be regulated and monitored.
3. Devotional groups will be allowed to meet in the church. These groups include:
  - Prayer Group
  - The Cenacle Group
  - The Nouwen Group
  - The Adoration Chapel

All groups must abide by the following guidelines:

- Those exhibiting any symptoms of the virus must remain at home.
  - Everyone attending must wear a mask at all times.
  - Social distancing is mandatory, maintaining a social distance of at least 6ft. at all times except for members of the same family. Obviously, we must also refrain from embracing when greeting one another.
  - Hand sanitizer must be used upon entering and leaving the church.
  - Use sanitizer wipes to clean chairs and all door handles and push bars and dispose of wipes in the receptacles provided prior to leaving.
  - Chairs in Adoration Chapel must be positioned 6ft. apart. The number of chairs to be determined.
  - The chapel is a closed space with no ventilation, so it is important to leave the door completely open at all times.
  - Must change the code to the chapel to ensure that no one enters that is not assigned. Set hours to be determined based on coverage.
  - Prayer groups must keep contact tracing sign-in sheets with name and phone numbers
4. If the coronavirus resurges, then all of this will have to be revisited.