

St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Triangle, VA

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2021, from 9:30 – 10:30 AM

I. Call to Order & Attendance – In person, Br. Juniper Room.

- a. Members Present – Fr. John O’Connor (Pastor), Terry Danner (Chair), Jean Allen, Phil Bongiorno, John Hales, Maggie Eaves, Clarence Neason, Iván Nazario, Angelica Silva (Francis House), Pequitte Schwerin, Dr. Tricia Barber (Principal).
- b. Members not Present – Dan Sullivan, Michelle Nicolai, Ulli Vaerst, Marv Floom, Maryanne Hayes (Director of Religious Education).

II. Opening Prayer – Fr. John

III. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the 19 June 2021 Pastoral Council were motioned for approval by John Hale, seconded by Maggie Eaves and adopted as approved.

IV. Hispanic Ministry Update – Iván Nazario

- a. A marriage ministry will be started for the Spanish speaking community. At present it is offered on a radio spot. It will become officially part of St Francis' ministries and will occur every Saturday morning.
- b. Planning is underway for a bi-lingual mass on All Souls Day in November. Pictures of all the deceased parishioners from the past year will be displayed.
- c. In fellowship with our Sister Parish in Peru, there will be a bi-lingual mass celebrating the Lord of Miracles which will also be live-streamed. The entire parish is encouraged to participate. Date to be announced for some time in October.

V. Pastor’s Remarks – Fr. John

- a. Mass attendance is increasing but very slowly. More and more people are coming back for the first time since the pandemic began. We are nowhere near where we were before. In consideration of the Delta variant currently on the rise, and the fact that children are not vaccinated, parents may be reluctant to attend events centered around family activities.
- b. Out of concern for the well-being of parishioners and after much discussion, the council recommended to the pastor that the Labor Day picnic, Francis Fest, and the October 1st children's mass in the park be canceled.

- c. Fr. John has received questions on when hymnals will be available for worship and the decision is to wait until the beginning of the next liturgical year (November), plus at present we don't know how many(few) to order based on numbers attending.
- d. The Pope's letter regarding the celebration of the Latin rite was discussed and Fr John shared the theology and history behind this practice. The Latin Mass is to be used only in special circumstances not on a weekly basis. He intends to provide a lecture/discussion period concerning this later in the fall.
- e. Parish policy regarding the wearing of masks will follow CDC guidelines. Francis House will continue to require mask wearing to access services and has a posted sign to that effect on their door. Eucharistic Ministers may be required to wear masks in the immediate future, and Fr John intends to wear a mask indoors while greeting parishioners in the foyer.
- f. The musical Stations of Fr. Mychal will not be held here as previously noted. The only area presentation will be at the Hylton Conference Center on 8 September.
- g. Br. Massimo Fusarelli was selected as the new OFM Minister General during the recent conference. He is an Italian, regrettably with no experience in the merger process currently in the planning stage for American provinces. No one who previously served was re-elected either. The key person for the American provinces is now an American friar living in Malta whose home province voted against being a part of the merger.

VI. Finance Council Report – Fr. John

- a. A new survey concerning the drainage problem in the parking area was conducted but a final decision will not be forthcoming until Spring of 2022. In the meantime, St Francis will continue to pay the \$2500 amount quarterly on the open permit.
- b. No update has been received from the Diocese on the installation of solar panels.
- c. Carpet in the Br Juniper room is 20 years old and stained with what appears to be mold. It will be replaced soon.
- d. The parish is still awaiting delivery of the new maintenance tractor.
- e. Our loan of \$500+K has been secured as a grant due to the hard work of Ed Knapp and Barbara Stouffer
- f. Electronic and envelope collections are down approximately 8%, but we have received approximately \$4,000 cash on recent weekends. An outstanding loan still exists on the parking lot and the Friary.

VII. School Report – Dr. Barber

- a. The EAMs grant of \$68K is being spent on upgrading technology and sanitation practices in the school. An additional request was made and granted for \$15K and restricted again to technology and sanitation upgrades. The plan is to install automatic hand sanitizers in every classroom and purchase twelve new computers.
- b. The Virginia Early Childhood fund was applied for and granted in the amount of \$45K and will be added to the general operating fund to be used for books, desks, etc.
- c. “Normal” campus life is being restored and the art room, dining hall, and computer rooms will return to usage as designated. Additional desks will be bought to maintain a 3-foot physical distance in the classrooms, with 6 feet usage of long tables in the dining room. This will allow 50% of the children to eat in the dining area, while the rest will continue at their desks. Additional room will be needed for nap area for the pre-school children so the St. Catherine room will be used for this purpose. When not in use, it could be available for other parish gatherings using chair set up.
- d. All students will be required to continue wearing masks as well as the teachers. The letter to the parents that was sent in early July stated this and there has been full cooperation from the parents. No visitors, guests, volunteers will be allowed in the school. Other Catholic schools and all PWC public schools have mask wearing optional. Our process has resulted in very few cases of the virus and none starting at school.
- e. Meet and greet where parents bring students school supplies will begin in one week before school starts. Current enrollment stands at 266. There will be a tour for second graders next week as enrollment in that grade has fluctuated over the summer.
- f. Dr. Barber continues to thank the Council for their support and considers it as her board of directors.

VIII. Other Topics

- a. Sister Parish Scholarship collection goal was \$8-9K and we received \$16 K through the generosity of the parishioners. All the students requiring scholarships were adopted. The money has been sent to Fr Tony in Peru which is in dire need.
- b. The collection for VOICE is currently over \$5K with a likely 1-1.5 K expected still before the check is mailed in November. The Parish Council voted to indemnify the shortfall up to \$9K which is the annual fee for St Francis.

- IX. New Business** - All Pastoral Council members have agreed to continue in their roles for one more year due postponement of elections during the pandemic.

X. Old Business – None

XI. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be 21 August 2021 at 9:30 AM in person at the Br. Juniper Room.

XII. Closing Prayer – Offered by Terry Danner

XII. Adjournment –10:30 am.