

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Triangle, VA

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2021

### I. **Call to Order & Attendance** – In person, Brother Juniper room.

- a. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM
- b. Members Present – Fr. John O’Connor (Pastor), Terry Danner (Chair), Jean Allen, Dr. Tricia Barber (Principal), Phil Bongiorno, Marv Floom (finance committee), Iván Nazario, Clarence Neason, Michelle Nicolai, Angelica Silva (Francis House), Pequitte Schwerin, Dan Sullivan.
- c. Members not Present –Ulli Vaerst. Maggie Eves, John Hales, Maryanne Hayes (Director of Religious Education)

### II. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. John

### III. **Elections** – Elections were held for Pastoral Council Officer Positions. Dr. Tricia Barber acted as teller.

- a. Chair – Terry Danner.
- b. Co-Chair – Phil Bongiorno
- c. Recorder – Dan Sullivan
- d. Since Angelica is now staff, she will represent outreach ministries. After the meeting, Fr. John appointed Tony Mercogliano to fill out the remaining Pastoral Council term.

### IV. **Quantico Safe Haven update** – Fr. John

- a. Fr. John took Bishop Burbidge on a tour of the facility.
- b. He reiterated the security procedures. First stop is to gain access to Quantico base. The more difficult one is the DHS checkpoint to enter the Safe Haven. The Safe Haven is heavily guarded, both at the gate, with armed guards throughout the compound. Some refugees have been moved out of the U.S. as they were not qualified to remain. DHS remains wary of the potential of bad actors among the population.
- c. The bishop called it “The most moving pastoral event in his life”.
- d. Department of State and DoD are also providing aid.
- e. There are about 140 women in the population that are expecting.

- f. Current census is down to 3,070. They are hoping to have everyone moved out by ‘cold weather season’, and they are making progress, but there is a long way to go.
- g. A Marine General, DHS VIPs, and the bishop were part of the tour.
- h. The facility coordinates all aspects of immigration processing for the refugees.
- i. St. Francis is a major player on contributions to the Safe Haven, and Fr. John is extremely impressed by the parishioners’ support.
- j. English for the children is going great, teenagers are the best with English
- k. All residents have been vaccinated for Covid and measles.
- l. “Thank you” signs are shown across the camps, – one may appear at St. Francis.

#### **V. Hispanic Ministry Update – Iván Nazario**

- a. On October 31<sup>st</sup> procession carrying the Lord of Miracles and the preceding Mass both went well. The image carried is too heavy and Fr Romero is working to obtain a smaller image of the Virgin for the future. The height of the doors leading into the Church are also a limiter.
- b. The Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast will be celebrated with a special mass and indoor procession on 12 December at 12:30. This festivity will feature Mariachi musicians. Parishioners will also prepare and provide tamales for a “grab and go” offering.
- c. Spanish language mass attendance is growing, partly related to the feast day events. Another reason is participants who choose to openly wear masks for greater protection from Covid feel more comfortable at our parish.

#### **VI. Pastor’s Remarks – Fr. John**

- a. The Franciscan Postulants will be at the Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> Lady of Guadalupe Mass.
- b. Fr. Michael Perry OFM, the outgoing OFM Minister General will also be at the Parish that weekend and will address the Secular Franciscans. This mass will be live-streamed.
- c. The Christmas Mass Schedule was published. There are no ‘double masses’ scheduled due to limited numbers of volunteers. There are some provisions for overflow if needed.
- d. A Prince William Health District Covid Vaccine clinic was held on 20 November. Eighty-five slots for vaccinations were filled. Nursing students from George Mason University administered the vaccinations.

- e. The open parking lot permit appears to be near resolution. After an inspection, it seems the parish will submit updated drawings for the “as built” drainage system, which should allow the County to close out the permit.
- f. The use of solar panels on campus is still under consideration – The initial investigation indicates the savings would not recover the costs of installation nor the ongoing maintenance. The panels would be installed on the Gymnasium roof, pending an inspection of the roof for its suitability.
- a. The Diocese is celebrating its 50-year Jubilee. There will be a Eucharistic Adoration scheduled for St. Francis during Lent to commemorate this. All Saints in Manassas will conduct the 40-hours devotion for our Deanery.
- g. There was an update on the OFM consolidation, the Delegate General representative will meet all Friars with the possibility of a survey of all ministries.
- h. Any new Friar appointments may be deferred to 2024.
- i. The OFM US consolidation implementation is still under consideration, with several issues needing to be resolved.

#### **VII. Finance Council Report – Marv Floom**

- a. The parish Annual Appeal is progressing with near 50% of goal achieved.
- b. Weekly donations have been about normal for this period.
- c. The search committee has been convened to find a replacement for the business manager. There are two candidates that have been identified for interviews so far.
- d. Christmas Decorations will go up after Thanksgiving.
- e. Some tile repairs are being made to the floor of the Church

#### **VIII. School Report – Dr. Barber**

- a. While there have been a few changes, enrollment for the Fall term still stands at 267 with some minor adds and drops may still occur.
- b. Results from the Diocesan Standardized test score are in. St. Francis of Assisi School did commendably well. Some particulars:
  - Math 73 is the Diocese average. St. Francis was 92
  - Grammar 74 is the Diocese average. St. Francis was 92
  - Spanish 793 is the Diocese average. St. Francis was 92
- c. The school walkathon raised \$11,000, and there are other fundraisers underway.

- d. There is a \$40 million grant pool for non-public schools, but the rules are such that St. Francis of Assisi School will not likely qualify for any of this funding.
- e. Eighty Children and another forty school staff members were present for the Covid vaccination Clinic.
- f. The School Robotics team competed at the Fairfax regional robotics competition. St. Francis won the grand championship, and alternate titles. Both teams will be going to represented at the state robotics championship the first weekend in December in Harrisonburg.
- g. The school participates in a bi-lingual Rosary and Mass.
- h. They are conducting a Thanksgiving food drive.

**IX. Francis House – Angelica Silva**

- a. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity donated food to Francis House for Thanksgiving.
- b. Lutheran Church of the Covenant is settling 144 immigrant families in Prince William County. They are requesting donations of furniture, household goods, transportation of materials, and Halal foods. This need will be posted in the bulletin by Francis House for donations. Gently used furniture is welcome!
- c. There was a special collection on 16-17 October for the needs of the sister parish in Peru.

**X. Old Business –** The business manager vacancy closed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, there are two candidates that are going to the interview phase.

**XI. Pastoral Council Minutes –** The minutes of the 16 October 2021 meeting were approved for posting to the Parish website

- There will be new officer elections in November 2022, which affords new officers a one year overlap before the existing officers' terms expire.

**XII. Next Meeting –** The next meeting will be 15 January at 9:30 AM in person.

**XIII. Closing Prayer –** Offered by Pequitte Schwerin

**XIX. Adjournment –**10:45 am.