

Parish Council Meeting: April 26, 2023

**Present**

Parish Pastoral Council: Fr. Ongen, Chris Francis, JoAnne Burgardt, JoAnn Farabaugh, Chriss Miller, Leah Noel (Youth Representative), Andrew Graf, Tory Bishop

Absent: Jerry Byrne, Kerry Holmes

Parish Committees/Subcommittees: Paul Fletcher (Outreach), Mike Bibbo (Buildings and Grounds), Jordan Graf (Youth and Adult Faith Formation), Lauren Kahoe and Elaine Reyes (Parish Life)

Guests: Father Roderic (Our Lady of Lourdes, Belladere, Haiti), Richard Burgardt, Nicole Noel

1. Opening Prayer-Father Ongen
2. Old Business
  - A. ParishCast: this is finally up and running, with the first test blast already sent out by Mike Bibbo; we bought 10,000 credits (1/2 credit per text recipient and 1 credit per email recipient) and we will develop processes and procedures to ensure we spend them wisely; blasts will be approved by Father Ongen; ParishCast will be used to remind parishioners of upcoming events and provide parishioners with time-sensitive information (e.g., Mass cancellation due to severe weather); for this to work, we need a mobile number for each parishioner so we will re-attack the push to have parishioners either update or establish their accounts.
  - B. Parish Directory: JoAnne Burgardt and JoAnn Farabaugh are liaising with the Parish Life Committee to set this up for Fall 2023; last done 11 years ago.
  - C. Mail/Advertising Campaign: Andrea Garrett was announced as the new Chair of the Communications Committee. The previous Chair, Randy Carter, is now the newly-established Community Relations Liaison for the parish. Jordan Graf will forward to Andrea the postcard designed to be mailed to new Suffolk residents and handed to visitors to the parish; a QR code will be added to it.
  - D. Filling empty PPC seat: to abide with the PPC Constitution's directive to fill empty seats as quickly as possible, Father Ongen agreed to waive the Constitutional requirement for a PPC member to be registered in the Parish for one year so that we could ask a proposed candidate to fill the vacant seat. We are awaiting that candidate's decision; should that candidate decline the position, we will approach the next candidate.
  - E. Combined Parish Calendar Meeting: May 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM in parish hall; along with the next fiscal year's activities, each committee should provide a marketing campaign for those activities that utilized ParishCast.
  - F. Parish Clean-up Day: pushed to Fall 2023.
  - G. Blue chairs: to be sold as voted on at March PPC meeting; we do not have a buyer for blue chairs; folding chairs are a better option.
  - H. Land Acquisition Committee: with the departure of the Fr. Emmanuel, there is no such Committee; while the Diocese has expressed interest in the Suffolk area, we are not in a position to move forward; anticipating the Diocese's interest in Suffolk, we must first outgrow our current physical space, beginning with the addition of a second Sunday Mass should the numbers warrant this; we will begin to explore the establishment of a Capital Campaign Committee.
  - I. FY24 Theme: the goal is to provide a focus for all activities in the parish; the working idea is "growing the parish" in all aspects of parish life: faith, community, missionary work, charity.
3. New Business
  - A. Communications Committee: Andrea Garrett is the new chair; to be in touch with Jordan and Randy.

- B. Liturgy Committee: Tammy Simmons has stepped down as the Music Director; Julie Francis is the new Music Director.
  - C. Landscaping: thank you to Chad Drake for submitting a plan; we will implement this plan in the fall while we estimate the cost and develop an implementation plan which will most likely involve phases; the goal is sustainability and ease of maintenance;
    - i. Mike Bibbo said we need to address the lawn care situation; if we cannot get parishioners to assist with the mowing, edging and blowing, may need spend scarce parish resources and hire a service; PPC decided to ask the parishioners to volunteer for a “Green Team” with the understanding that Mike can get equipment (push mowers, trimmers and blowers); we will begin with ambo announcements.
4. Outreach Committee Update: Paul Fletcher, Chair
- A. Haiti: along with Fr. Roderic’s visit, Paul has mailed the forms for Haiti student sponsorship
  - B. Salvation Army: Paul would like to do one more Soup Kitchen event before the summer
  - C. Food Lion cards: we have approximately 70 cards left at 20 dollars each; if you know of someone in need, in our parish or in the community, contact the parish office.
5. Youth Representative: Leah Noel
- Leah polled the Youth Group about having a Youth Mass on a regular basis and found that many of the youth are interested. The Youth Mass would see members of the Youth Group, and possibly Faith Formation, be the altar servers, lectors, ushers, gift bearers, and possibly Extraordinary Ministers. There is a chance that some youth may want to sing in the choir. A Youth Mass once per month may be too difficult, logistically, so the effort may begin with one per quarter. The Saturday evening Mass will most likely be the venue. The first planned Youth Mass will most likely occur in the fall.
6. Open Mic: at every meeting we offer parishioners the opportunity to address the PPC.
- A. JoAnn F. addressed the concern that some of the elderly parishioners either prefer or need a hard-copy bulletin vice the digital version (emailed, on FaceBook, and on the website; returning to paper bulletins in general is cost prohibitive for the parish at this time; a compromise was suggested where those who needed a hard copy would sign up and printed bulletins would be mailed to only to those on the list; for visitors, we will have a postcard (see item 2.C.) with a QR code linked to the website and bulletin.
  - B. Chris F. raised the issue of daily Mass and the demographic of those who attend it; with the 10 AM daily Mass attendees getting older, we need to look ahead and consider moving the daily Mass to an earlier time; Fr. Ongen said 8 to 10 members attend 10 am mass; PPC will conduct a poll to gauge the interest in having Daily Mass earlier in the morning (6 AM, 6:30 AM, 7 AM).
  - C. JoAnn F announced that the Women’s Club will be accepting donations Thursday for the annual Yard Sale held Friday and Saturday in the parish Hall.
6. Father Ongen’s Time: nothing to discuss as we addressed his issues during the meeting.
7. Closing Prayer: Fr. Ongen closed the meeting with a prayer

Next PPC Meeting: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM.  
 (PPC meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month)