

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP
Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes - February 1, 2021 – Zoom

Council members in attendance were: Fr. Jeff Prasser, Mary Maberry, Council Chair, Julie Bartkow-Peck, John Czepulis, John Gomez, Mary Lou Hopkins, Gary Jensen, Jon Leonardelli, Gil Van Blaricon, Mary Wenger, MPH Business Manager, Doug Barnes, Trustee and Grace Elliott, Trustee. Excused: Sue Scharmach

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mary Maberry

Opening prayer: Colossians 3:11-17 Mary explained that this reading is all about letting go of one way of doing things and beginning anew. It is a statement of what qualities are necessary to be a family, a blended family, a parish family.

This meeting was an open discussion relative to moving to one worship site and our new parish community.

Father Jeff began the discussion reiterating that the date for this move, the Sunday after July 1st, (the weekend of July 4th) was mentioned many times, both in print (bulletin/newsletter) and verbally. The process starts with the sale of St. Aloysius parish which took an enormous amount of time to bring to fruition. As soon as we close on the sale, we will be having a closing Mass at that site, with Bishop Hying, as the main presider. He also noted that the Hying family had been members at all three sites, so it may be possible to have him preside at a closing Mass at the 116th street site also. (date cannot be determined as yet). A suggestion was made to ask a group of people from each site to help plan the last Masses at their site.

It was also suggested that a closing Mass should be held at 106th street to complete the process of becoming truly one worship community from the three sites. This will take place at a date as yet to be determined. Fr. Jeff stated that all Mass times will remain the same.

Discussion then surrounded Fr. Jeff's health and the procedures he is enduring. He is on the transplant list for both a kidney and liver.

Brief discussion relative to interior changes at 106th took place, most specifically movement of some statues to the area where the healing shrine is located, and the moving the healing shrine to the North entrance. Fr. Jeff has reviewed the possibility of more comfortable accommodations being made. Other changes were discussed that could take place between 2 to 5 years down the road.

Possibility of having "take out fish fry's" or "spaghetti dinners" starting in early spring was discussed.

Lengthy discussion regarding how to bridge the gap between our communities during a pandemic led to many ideas. Combining our ministries has already been started, but much more work needs to be done in that area. Importance of inviting members to join various groups was discussed.

John Gomez (shared via email due to no audio) reflected on the opening prayer saying that is was very good for the purpose of getting us in the frame of mind of being a spiritual body that serves the Church of Christ, and that we are all servants for Him and one another. Without deep spirituality, it will be that much harder to move forward, that is first and foremost to building our new parish family.

He further stated that all parishioner's, at this point, know what will come to be, one site of worship at the 106th site. We have to move forward with those who will join us.

Grace read a brief paragraph, written by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, which pertains to our situation, and Fr. Jeff would like to include it in our bulletin. It reads: *“Our primary task today is to live community. If we can do that, then the visible body of Christ, the church, will have an incredible resurrection.”*

More communication to our parishioners as to when/what needs to be done before we move to one worship site was also discussed.

As members of the Pastoral Council, we are responsible to stop any rumors that negatively impact our community, with a positive response. If a person has given out some erroneous information, it really is our responsibility to nicely refute that and replace it with the truth. We’ve been asked to be present to our community to be able to ward off any incorrect comments. (John Gomez) We should answer any questions coming from parishioners but with one united answer. At our next meeting we should come up with a general response.

A suggestion was made to place brief articles from the Council in our bulletin, informing our parishioners of our upcoming move to one worship site. This should be put on our web site also. (John Gomez) Should we post information at the 92nd Street site as to when the 7:00 Mass will be moved and to where (for those that are not parishioners)?

Gary Jensen suggested that Fr. Jeff produce a video presentation once a month that can be viewed in church addressing our move to one worship site.

Mary M informed the Council of a webinar from Bishop Barron, called “Word on Fire ENGAGE”. She recommended this to Fr. Jeff who thought it would be a good program for our parish, and the Council also agreed. The program is free from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

Mary also discussed the “1% Challenge” program from the Archdiocese, and will contact them for more information.

Fr. Jeff suggested that all Council members have their pictures taken, and included in the bulletin, so parishioners will know who they can ask questions of regarding our move to the new worship site. Included with the pictures will be a brief statement as to why they chose to be on the Council.

Mary informed the Council members that Archbishop ListECKI released, **The Gift of Sunday** Lenten Mission that will be conducted at 18 select parishes around the Archdiocese, on March 3rd. Parishioners can check out the Archdiocesan website for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 with the Our Father.

The next Council meeting will be on March 1st. (In-Person or Zoom - TBD)

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Sue Scharmach,

Grace Elliott