

Saint Mark Catholic Church Pastoral Council

September 21, 2020

In Attendance: Father John, David Liberto, David Balmaceda, Theresa Benson, John Benson, Eric Smith, Lisa Daily, Phillip Weaver, Jim Burger, Emilio Gomez, Wojtek Lachowski, Beth Zuhosky, Scott Bruno

Absent: Josh McCormick, Suzanne Broda

Welcome: Opening Prayers

First 15: Theresa- Bishop Barron video- Evangelization. Timothy Cardinal Dolan is a great Evangelizer. Shared joy of being a friend of Jesus Christ. First the joy and then the ethics. Begin with contagious joy. Let people be drawn in by the joy and then they will want to understand the “why”. Meet the person where they are and then draw them along the path.

Accept Minutes: Lisa

PC Meeting Round Table: All

How do you bring Jesus to others?

- Starts at home, having deeper discussions than they will get at school. Engaging your children and discussing more about faith.
- Meet parishioners who are coming back to church. Meet in their homes. Have great conversations- homilies, anxiety about going back to church. Engage with people, socialize. Pray the Rosary.
- Invite people, talk to people. Youth invite other youth- vibrancy in the courtyard with the Color Games- opportunity to bring that excitement with younger kids. Find ways to bring the face of Christ to others through children.
- F3- small group of men who meet Sunday morning. Review book together. Parable of Prodigal Son- share thoughts, ideas.
- Evangelize with new families joining MACS- new to the school system. Talk about importance of attending Mass, meeting people where they are at. Pray together.
- Steubenville- little practical steps- when someone asks you how are you? Say I am blessed...plant seeds. Loving without judging. Fear not. Be not afraid; 365 times in the Bible. True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Share with others why you go to Mass. Confession- child like faith. Don't judge.
- In the workplace. Be God's instrument. Randomly talk to people about where you go to church. Invite someone to join you at Mass.
- Invite people to something specific. Share our faith with excitement- Have you ever heard about Divine Mercy? Plant seeds on fertile ground, remember everyone is dealing with something and we may not know how much they are struggling. Think about the laborers working in the field. Paid the same for less work, sometimes we need to lift each other up. Evangelize by praying in public.

Parish Operations Update: Scott

- **Facilities-** stairs being pulled out near water fountain to Kerin center- water damage causing cracks. New concrete stairs and railings.
- Preschool going well- settling down.
- Collection Update- collection is down about 8%. About 15% less than budget right now. Concerning but not unexpected. Sending a letter and video. Stewardship will do annual financial stewardship weekend coming up.
- Adoration is back in full swing.
- Faith Formation- Sister Zeny has joined us as Director of Religious Education.

Stewardship Update: Beth

- Continuing outreach collections that are food related.
- Angel tree- different this year. Needs are still there. Thanksgiving meal drive and angel tree drive will be online November 1st -22nd. Donations will all be financial. Will advertise last weekends in October. Currently fill narthex bin every 2 weeks. In November we will ask for holiday foods and donate to the food pantries.
- Parish mission- was scheduled for the Year of St. Joseph- first week in November; Sunday- Thursday. Fathers of Mercy will be coming to do the mission.
- No Christmas book giveaway this year. Going to do a Vigil Project media bundle. Bundle includes a 5-talk series during Advent and Christmas bundled with CD of music from Vigil Project. Encourage families to celebrate Advent and Christmas together. May need to open to first 1,000 families due to cost.
- Coat drive- do not have anyone to coordinate at this point in time.
- Planning for 2nd weekend in Advent- Stewardship Weekend of Treasure. Highlight outreach, giving of your treasure.
- Liturgy- some struggles with ministers serving and showing up. Ushers, greeters, scheduling etc. Ralph W and Beth working on these volunteer scheduling issues.

Evangelization: Theresa-Sister Zeny has joined as Director of Religious Education. She is at the parish Tuesday and Friday. The Welcome men's team was at all Masses this past weekend. 30 men registered for the retreat. Welcome women's team are meeting 2 times a month. Planning for a retreat in May. Just finished staff for evangelical Catholic. Starting a second group this week and first group of parishioners next week. Oct 6 RCIA- 25 people registered.

Eyes and Ears: Father John

- Eucharistic Congress- Fr Gamez and a committee put together the conference. Everyone loved it. Nice to come together as a Parish.
- Election Year- questions about what is a Catholic to do? Father will send us links with information. We need to have prudential judgement, informed conscience. Non- negotiable issues and negotiable issues. Non-negotiable- Life Issues.
- Priests for Life is a good resource to understand the platforms.
- COVID 19 Update- Governor making next statement coming up in early October.
- Adoration- request to put 9 chairs in the Chapel.

- Numbers of people at Mass- 11am Mass is busiest with approx. 350-400 people. Saturday at 5pm has approx. 250, other Sunday Masses have approx. 180-250 people and Sunday night has approx. 180, lowest attendance.
- Advertising – Beth shared that we are going to be doing more advertising focused on Parishioners who may be fearful about coming back to Mass. We are doing things for people to come back, in a safe way. Amy will be creating some Facebook posts. St. Mark continues to lead in the Diocese with regards to implementation of safety practices. Some other parishes are not social distancing, wearing masks etc.
- David Liberto- shared his unique perspective from the medical community on risk, safety measures etc.

Closing Remarks and Prayer: Father John