



Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

November 14, 2019

Minutes

In attendance: Kevin Barquinero, PPC; Lydia Cherry, Parishioner; Tania Chomiak-Salvi, PPC; Kathleen Coogan, PPC; Kevin Coogan, PPC; Sara DeCarlo, PPC; John Dolan, PPC; Jimmy Ervin, PPC; Dorothy Farley, Parishioner; Rev. C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., Pastor; Chris Hannigan, Vice President PPC; Benjamin Hawley, S.J., Associate Pastor; Constance Herron, Parishioner; Kenny Kraft, PPC; Paula McCabe, Parishioner; Martina O'Shea, Pastoral Associate for Ignatian Spirituality; Carlos Salinas, PPC; Bob Stump, Restorative Justice Group Parishioner (RJG); Jim Thessin, PPC; Ellen Toups, President PPC; Bob Young, Parishioner; Linda Young, Parishioner.

This Parish Pastoral Council meeting began following opening prayer.

Parishioners' Open Forum. Dorothy Farley expressed appreciation for the listening sessions and parish forum and asked what our reaction may be to the Vatican's request that the USCCB's conference not reach any conclusions pending the February 2019 world bishops' gathering.

Kenny Kraft moved to approve the prior minutes, Jimmy Ervin seconded the motion, minutes approved unanimously.

Kevin Gillespie, S.J. delivered the Pastor's Report.

- Holy Rood Cemetery's columbarium construction is expected to begin in March 2019, with dedication expected on 2 November 2019. He expressed great appreciation for the effort of so many parishioners and others to reach this stage.
- Garden is done; roof is sealed.
- Main church will close for repairs on the first Monday of June. This will include replacing the pews. Last capital campaign raised most of the money for the repairs. Expected completion September 2019 with rededication on October 5th, in conjunction with celebration of the chapel's 200th anniversary.
- One video celebrating Holy Trinity School is already up on the website.
- Parish and School celebration/fundraiser at Sequoia Restaurant on 2 March 2019. 500 tickets only.
- The Sermon on the Mount noted a potential \$200,000 shortfall. We are a healthy Parish but operating budget could be better. The wild card is the effect of the church crisis. We have 27 employees not counting the school and four major projects either just completed, underway, or imminent: garden repair, columbarium construction, church repair, and bicentennial celebration.
- Shauna Creary, Accountant, has moved on to Howard University. We need a bookkeeper, a maintenance person, and a youth ministry person. Dino Campagnari, our Director of Facilities, has to keep track of some 32 programs on a typical Sunday. We do not want to burn out our staff.

There was a conversation about the existing pews: can they be repaired? can they be sold? Kevin explained that it was more expensive to repair them than to buy new ones and Chris Hannigan explained that we do not have storage space pending any potential sale. Chris agreed to take this item back to the

Facilities Committee for further discussion. Paula also asked about whether some of the new pews would be accessible to those differently-abled and Kevin said that there would be some accommodations.

Ambassador's Group

Volunteers are needed for Welcome Sunday. The next one is December 2. Kevin mentioned how important it is to connect Parishioners and that they were hoping to gather all those who had married in the Parish in the last three years. Several PPC members volunteered for Welcome Sunday.

Phone-a-thon and Hospitality

A google docs will circulate to sign up for New Parishioner calls; some 60 names to be divided up, to be called within the next two weeks. Kevin Barquinero asked if we had a questionnaire for the new parishioners. Kevin Gillespie reminded all that the PAR process highlighted the importance of hospitality and of being a welcoming parish. Jim Thessin suggested that we should do something at every Mass: we should encourage all parishioners to go get coffee and to make a point of talking with someone that they have not met yet. Carlos Salinas was asked to take this to Parish Life Committee. Kevin Barquinero asked if we could get notes for our calls. Ellen Toups said that reminders in the direction of hospitality would not hurt anyone.

Efforts Moving Forwards on Confronting Sexual Abuse Crisis

The Council then began a wide-ranging discussion about the next steps following the "Parish Open Forum for Action," our Parish-wide meeting on November 4 which transformed the thoughts of the listening sessions and document into action components that Parishioners could take, individually or collectively, to address the scandal and crimes of clergy sexual abuse and its cover-up by the bishops.

There were three main action areas that emerged:

I. Communication: Much conversation about the current viability of the email addresses given to participating parishioners. It was posited that too much time had ensued in getting back to participating parishioners. It was agreed that the viability of these email addresses would be prioritized. Also concern was expressed about updating the website contents on this issue.

II. Document of Action Items. Bob Stump will get to the PPC members two nearly identical documents about the next steps that were drafted at the Open Forum, differing only in that one document, which would remain private for now, would include the email addresses of the parishioners that had volunteered to lead in the given issue areas. Given Bob's role, Kathleen Coogan informed us that they had drafted Bob into the Ad Hoc Group, the Parish's Steering Committee around the crisis.

III. Overlap and Fine Tuning. Kenny Kraft and others expressed the importance in whittling down the action items, that too many action items would dilute the effort. It was agreed that there should be a follow-up meeting to review the action items and their overlaps, so that some action items could be merged and/or cross-pollinated. And in this same spirit, it was deemed desirable that action be differentiated from that which would be at the Parish level, the Diocese level, and that of the Vatican. The key take away was that the further treatment of these action items needed the direct involvement of the parishioners that had participated in their drafting and had volunteered to be the point persons for those areas.

There was a general sense that we feel that we are moving in the right direction although we do not know where this road will take us. Kathleen shared the sense of the November 4th meeting which was that "We have been deeply affected by the current crisis in the Catholic Church and feel drawn to respond by taking

action." Ben reminded us that prayer is needed now more than ever given the magnitude of the challenge facing us. Kevin Gillespie reminded us that we have tremendous resources at our disposal with the scholarship of those at Georgetown University and tis programs. Jim Thessin reminded us to take care of each other.