



Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Father Peter Grace, CP
Monday, March 15, 2021

Members: Father Peter Grace, Martin Dramou, Mike Ellison, Patrick Ginty, Mary Hansen, Jesus Hernandez, Melina Hernandez-Campos, Misael Jaramillo, George Lozano, Louise Lupo, Marco Maya, Anne Miller, Laura Olmedo, Dean Penny, Kevin Pilotte, Victor Sanchez, Sean Skelly, Jon Soika

Members Excused: Mary Hansen, Kevin Pilotte

Members Absent: none

Opening Prayer: Jon Soika

Guests: Joe Boivin, Ann Grossman, Karen Hidalgo (remote)

Approval of Minutes: February minutes were approved by Sean Skelly and seconded by Mike Ellison; all agreed.

Update on Fr. Hector: Karen Hidalgo (virtual)

- Thanked Fr. Peter and the Finance Council for bringing Fr. Hector here to serve the Hispanic community.
- Was with him the day he passed away.
- Patrick Ginty, Karen, and Fr. Grace took Fr. Hector's cremains to his family in Mexico. Family offered thanks and were grateful for Fr. Peter and Carmen's frequent updates.
- Local community was grateful for three representatives from the parish to bring him home.
- Challenging emotionally; Patrick was a huge help in translating and supporting the group.
- Patrick:
 - People there wanted to say how grateful they were to St. Ann's community for support and witness exhibited through prayers, posts, and updates.
 - Were treated like celebrities on their visit.
 - Knew he was loved here.
 - Fr. Hector was a true missionary; he wanted to leave his home to live out his mission.
- Last day with Fr. Victor, Passionist Provincial ... his priority was to visit all the Passionist places and see if they were any possible replacements to come to St. Ann's.

Finance Report: Dean Penny

- Financial update
 - Detailed financial summary coming soon; will be posted online and in the bulletin.
 - Operating in the black through continued reduced expenses.
 - Estimates 3200 – 3500 parish families.
 - We're behind in offertory but have gotten other revenue streams.
 - Finance Council is discussing education budget, which is significantly under budget; are we missing something there?

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- Operating budget is based on \$500 per family annually.
- Columbarium
 - Sold 18 niches to date.
 - Still have prospective list of 23 – 25; hoping for 40 by June 1.
 - St. Mary's parishioner saw ordinance passed on JoCo News.
 - Town of Smithfield just passed a new ordinance two months ago; Paul Emblar and Dean met with the City Planning Board and got it approved; still need a special-use permit to go to construction. Will submit permit application on April 1 and expect complete approval.
 - Memorial opportunities exist to memorialize other elements besides niches.
 - Prices are expected to rise after construction begins.
 - There will be a memorial wall for folks to honor deceased loved ones who are not interred here.
- Fr. Hector seminarian endowment fund
 - Fund Diocese used to have to help pay for seminarians to go to seminary.
 - \$40K per year per seminarian on average. 20 seminarians in the Diocese currently.
 - Facing a \$300K shortfall, the Diocese has asked parishes to assist with meeting this immediate need. Fr. Grace had the idea to establish a long-term endowment fund in Fr. Hector's memory such it can provide annual support to funding our Diocese's seminarians. The foundation website is live and accepting donations immediately, and a link will be provided via St. Ann's website.
 - Martin suggests the Fr. Hector foundation be approved by the family and his superior to ensure they know the financial arrangement and where the money is going in the name of their loved one. Fr. Grace feels confident they fully support the purpose.
- Dean's slides are appended to these notes as Attachment A.

Youth Report: Melina Hernandez-Campos and Jesus Hernandez

- On Thursday, group had small penance service—focused on *what is penance and why do it*. Confession opportunities were given.
- The new middle school youth group will meet on 3/23 from 6:30 – 8 PM.
- Cookie sales this weekend to raise money for NCYC conference expenses.
- Two bible study groups; girls on Wednesday after Confirmation class at 7:30 PM; boys group still looking for chaperones.
- Volunteering for Fish Fry on 3/26 and Confirmation retreat on 3/27.

COVID Vaccinations: Joe Boivin

- SJPC has given vaccines to 400 this year; these include both doses.
- Clinic has operated here for several years and decided early this year to provide COVID vaccine.
- Goal is to provide vaccination facility and 25 – 30 volunteers. Provide smooth and efficient operation. Two pharmacists and a nurse; six events total.
- Both Lisa Deeren and Steven Wales have been at all six events.
- Vaccines still in short supply.
- Group 3 (teachers and essential workers) is now open and includes grocery and restaurant workers, migrant farmers, first responders, and food processing workers; thus, we expect a big swell in numbers.
- Dean asked if St. Ann's is exempt from liability. Has anyone sought legal counsel specific to this vaccine and whether the parish is assuming liability?

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- Fr. Grace: the bishop has approved our efforts; he will request the diocesan attorney provide an approval in writing.
- Mike: is CVS responsible if someone passes away due to a reaction to the shot?
- Joe's written update is appended to these notes as Attachment B.

IFF Update: Ann Grossman

- Ended up with \$23K total through COVID activities.
- May raffle tickets going out immediately; will cost \$10 per ticket.
- Ann attended the Hispanic ministry council meeting last week; it was agreed not to mail them to the Hispanic families but to describe them at Mass and then distribute on their way out of the church.
- Envelopes will be mailed to English-speaking parishioners.
- Identical setup as October.
- Daily drawing every day in the month of May.
- After several executive committee meetings, it's been agreed not to schedule a major event this year due to COVID uncertainty. Lots of up-front money without a guarantee to have the event. Friday night food nights and a Saturday afternoon event last fall. The idea of having a food sale on Sunday to capture the after-Mass crowd (especially the Spanish-speaking crowd) was raised, although there are uncertainties about how traffic would flow in conjunction with the usual traffic flow to and from the Masses.
- Thinking to next year and another big event, it will likely be a complete start from scratch, as many folks who are longtime volunteers have moved on from the parish.
- Mike: concerns about traffic on a Sunday.
- Patrick: sees a very recent uptick in people being out and about and thinks things will be wide open this summer.
- Mike: can we improve publicity beforehand to reach out to more non-parishioner members of the community? Dean suggests social media advertising over traditional advertising.
- Potential for one poster to make multi-month advertisement (e.g., third Friday of consecutive months).
- Saturdays can be a busy day for many folks; what kind of patronage would be expected?
- Dean suggests the idea of multiple smaller events include opportunities to eat onsite.
- Dean suggests the names of the winners be posted on the TVs in the nathex during weekend Masses.
- Misael: could Sunday afternoon be a possibility for a multi-country event? It was pointed out that there is an overflow crowd in the parish center during the 12:30 PM Mass, which would prohibit the parish center from being used for staging and preparations.

BAA Update: Anne Miller

- Bulletin provides weekly updates on BAA tracking.
- \$59,094 in pledges to date; \$38,423 from 203 families to date. 38% of our goal.
- Majority of gifts are being made online or via mail directly to the Diocese.
- Victor Moreno has approached all Hispanic ministries and asked that they support the campaign.
- Multiple ministry donations have already come in.
- Young people will be selling masks with 4 designs (\$7 or 2/\$12) as a fundraiser.

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- Generous offer from a parishioner to match contributions made between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday; hopeful for a boost; logistics of such a match are being worked out.
- BAA committee is working to promote BAA.

Updates: Fr. Peter

- Thanked Dean and Anne for their efforts on various parish endeavors.
- Visited the artist and the parish mosaic while in Mexico; eight family members were working on it.
- Coordinators for each Mass
 - People have been stepping in for others who aren't at Mass, but these folks often aren't trained.
 - Sign-up genius is being pitched to help better coordinate on filling Mass roles.
 - Hoping to find a designated coordinator for each Mass.

Ministry Update: Louise Lupo

- Welcome committee
 - Lucy Calabria will lead this for English-speaking parishioners and personally reach out to all new members.
 - Seeking the same position for the Spanish-speaking parishioners.

New Business/Other Concerns:

- Pastoral Council elections – Louise Lupo
 - No applications for the pastoral council.
 - Encourages all appointed councilors to consider running for an elected term.
 - Members will make announcements at each Mass to make an appeal.
- Hispanic retreat and ministry – Misael Jaramillo
 - Hispanic community is organizing a retreat this month; hoping to bring folks back to church.
 - Hispanic community: had retreat last year, but they were told they could not have another retreat. The Wendell pastor had a lot of complaints with the same retreat group; Fr. Peter told the group there must be assurance of working well with the community and ministry leaders here.
 - The Hispanic ministries would appreciate Fr. Duggan and Fr. Grace stopping by and being more visible—stop in from time to time.
- Environment at Masses – Anne Miller
 - 4:30 PM Mass is overflowing in social-distancing capacity.
 - Kevin is working with the ushers to train on setup of Pastoral Center.
 - The church acoustics seem to be struggling.
 - Are outdoor Masses an option in light of more folks coming back into the church?
- Learning center roof – Mike Ellison
 - Was the roof recently inspected?
 - George and his father got up there and looked. Options – do you duct tape and nurse it along and postpone replacement? Or do you go ahead and replace now?

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What is expected life? 80% seems good, but there are locations that need attention. Dean and Gary Winkler are in the conversation and options are being evaluated.

- Potential increased attendance at Holy Week Masses/services – Jon Soika
 - Are planning measures being taken for a potential large crowd on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Masses? Especially with a single bilingual Mass being held Holy Thursday evening.
 - Fr. is not overly concerned, feels parish center will be adequate to handle overflow.
- Remembrance Mass for Fr. Hector – Fr. Grace
 - 8 AM bilingual Mass this Saturday, with breakfast to follow immediately after; one-month anniversary of Fr. Hector's death.

Closing Prayer: Father Peter

Next meeting is Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7 PM

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.
Respectfully submitted, Jonathan Soika