

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting; online via Zoom**  
**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

Ed Condon, present	Melba Hinojosa, present
Francine Freitas, present	Sue Kenney, present
Jo Gonsalves, present	Patrick Mahan, present
Darrin Greer, vice chair, excused	Emer McKenna, acting secretary, present
Margaret Healy, excused	Bob Reid, chair, present
Linda Hill, present	Janet Vitt, secretary, excused

Also attending was J.D. Warrick of the parish staff, and Fr. Des O'Reilly, Pastor.

Chair Bob Reid opened the meeting at 6:08 p.m., and Francine Freitas led a prayer.

The minutes of the Nov 09, 2021, regular council meeting were reviewed and a correction was noted by Jo Gonsalves regarding the opening and closing prayers. The minutes were approved as corrected upon motion by Jo Gonsalves, seconded by Linda Hill. They will be posted on the parish website.

**Pastor's Report:** Fr. Des O'Reilly provided the following updates:

- Pandemic – The church continues to operate under the mitigation measures established by the Bishop. Expectations of the Omicron virus to reach its peak over the next two-three weeks. Thank you for everyone's cooperation. Lots of children are being infected, the school is continuing its mitigation measures and ventilation recommendations including having all the windows open.
- Christmas masses - Thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas ceremonies. Special thanks to Beth, John, J.D. and the Liturgy Group for all the organization and time. We had good attendance despite Omicron and the rate of infection. All Christmas masses were live-streamed. Masking, social distancing and usual mitigation measures observed. Children were brought up to the altar, which was lovely and well received.
- Choir - The Choir during the Christmas ceremonies was smaller than typical Christmas ceremonies. In response to the most recent surge in Covid-19 cases in Sacramento the music at masses has returned to only Accompanist and Cantor. We will review the pandemic situation in a month's time.
- Parish Center – we continue to be cautious and have not opened the Parish Center to group events. Because of the cleaning/mitigation measures required we need to be extremely careful. We will continue to adopt a wait and see approach. A follow-up question was asked whether Fr. Des anticipates that the church will close due to the numbers. Fr. Des stated that St. Francis of Assisi Parish (SFP) will stay open because of the decision take by the Supreme Court, we will not be closing. However, SFP will continue to operate under the mitigation measures established by the Bishop. For example, seating every other pew, if not in same household must sit 6ft apart, and limited seating 90-100. We have had the seating limitation in place and it has not been an issue. Overflow seating in Brunsman Hall was considered for the Christmas masses, but was not needed and SFP was able to accommodate all that attended while adhering to the safety measures.

Fr. Des pointed out that there is a camper/tent on 26<sup>th</sup> Street near the Parish Center. SFP is talking to the individuals constantly to try and get them the support they need. The housing people have talked with them, including representatives from the city along with several local charities that work with the homeless, but both individuals have declined everything that is being offered.

- Appreciation - Francine Freitas commended Fr. Des and appreciated him adhering to safety protocols right from the beginning of the pandemic and all throughout. Jo Gonsalves passed on her appreciation to Fr. Des for leading the way in the Diocese to allow parishioners to worship in safety either in person or online. Jo Gonsalves lives midway between four different parishes and St. Francis of Assisi Parish has provided the best options. Sue Kenney concurred and appreciated that the services both in-person and streaming have been consistent and have not changed from week to week. Fr. Des attributed the consistency and quality of the masses to Beth White, John Iosefa and J.D. Warrick all being on the same page throughout the pandemic.
- **Condolences** - The Parish Council would like to send a letter of condolence to Bishop Soto expressing our deepest sympathy on the death of his mother Gloria Yolanda Soto. Bishop Soto and his family will remain in our prayers at this sad and difficult time.

**Chair's Report:** Bob Reid provided the following updates:

- Based on Bishop Soto's Call to the Parish Pastoral Councils we would like our Parish Council to serve as the model for the Diocesan Synod process. The process involves Council members to gather together on zoom for 3 hours, with each member taking turns to respond to four specific questions reflecting on the image of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. The meeting will be facilitated to ensure it stays focused and on track and a note taker will transcribe the answers to the questions. The note taker and facilitator will prepare the answers for submission to the Diocese using the Diocesan Portal. The Diocese will send them to the USCCB which will conclude the Diocesan phase of the synod. We must have our submission in to the diocese no later than February 5, 2021. It is important to note the synod is not about any one parish or personal opinions. It is a well-defined process with easy to follow materials and videos for the facilitators. Beth White and Bob Reid will work with Fr. Des to facilitate the process.
- Bob shared Bishop Soto's video message to Parish Pastoral Councils regarding the Synod. (<https://www.scd.org/synod>).
- Francine asked whether the questions and picture involved in the process were universal/worldwide. Fr. Des said that the same process would be followed by all dioceses in the US, of which there are almost two hundred, and as far as Fr. Des knows, they are using the same questions and image/painting for reflection.
- Sue Kenney asked if all 10 members had to be from the Parish Council. Fr. Des clarified that there will be more than one group participating to ensure proper representation from the parish. Francine asked if it was open to the parish in general. Fr. Des further clarified that it is open by invitation and that each parish is supposed to have three groups participate and we want the groups to be representative of our parish. The process should be consistent across the board.
- Patrick Mahan already participated in a synod and shared his thoughts. Patrick said it was a very nice evening, very structured, and not an open discussion. You have to stay on topic/point because it takes up the entire 3 hours. You have to be cognizant of time given to others. It is not a dialogue, not an exchange of thoughts. You don't use your time to rebut another person's response.
- SFP Parish Council action needed: Agree to participate and select a date. PC members to email availability/interest. Bob Reid will email the synod outline to everyone.

**Staff Liaison Report:** JD Warrick shared the following updates:

**Channel Subscribers:** Total of 496 subscribers to the St. Francis of Assisi Channel to date.

Totals are as of 12:00 noon today.

496 subscribers, up from 472 in November.

### **SUNDAY 9:30AM MASS**

11/14 – 182 views

11/21 – 148 views

11/28 – First Sunday of Advent, 192 views

12/05 – Second Sunday of Advent, 192 views

12/12 – Third Sunday of Advent, 177 views

12/19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, 189 views

12/26 – Most Holy Family, 151 views

01/02 – Epiphany, 211 views

01/09 – Baptism of the Lord, 185 view

### **OTHER MASSES**

11/25 – Thanksgiving, 81 views

12/01 – Taize #1 – 53 views

12/08 – Immaculate Conception, 104 views

12/08 – Taize #2, 68 views

12/15 – Taize #3, 74 views

12/22 – Taize #4, 64 views

12/24 – Christmas Eve 4:00pm, 167 views

12/24 – Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols & 10pm Mass, 225 views

12/25 – Christmas Day, 158 views

**Music Updates:** Total of 458 subscribers to the St. Francis of Assisi Channel to date. Due to the surge in COVID positivity rates, choir has paused it's in person rehearsals and participation at Mass. We are going back to one cantor and pianist, with John running around as needed to do technical adjustments. Hopefully, the current wave will taper by the beginning of Lent which is our target for resuming choir. Until then, Choir will prepare for Lent/Easter through Tuesday evening rehearsals through Zoom, starting tonight (Jan. 11, 2022).

- **Expenditures** - several small music expenditures coming up for maintenance. They are already in the works and will hopefully be done by the end of the month.
  - Piano tuning ~ \$140
  - Hand Bell maintenance supplies ~\$80
- **Taizé and Stations of the Cross** during Lent
  - Beth coordinating the Stations
  - Taizé will resume for Lent and lead into Stations of the Cross

- Music choices being discussed.
- Sue Kenney asked if Stations and Taize will be livestreamed. J.D. commented that the Stations of the Cross were livestreamed last year and will also be livestreamed this year, they will make it nice. Francine Freitas commented that last year's livestream was excellent. The livestream from last year is still available on the YouTube channel to watch.

**Church Building:** Manny Dabay contacted a company to get a quote for the roof repairs. The repairs are needed in the dome area; it is leaking into the structure but not leaking into the church. Many of the companies contacted say that the job is too specialized. Domes are vulnerable and need to be maintained. We received some leads from the diocese.

**Family Promise:** Beth Mullen is the liaison between Family Promise and the Parish Council. Fr. Des informed the council that SFP shared half the costs with Trinity Cathedral for a donation of \$1,500. SFP had correspondence this week in which we were asked to continue these donations. SFP agreed to contribute 50% of the donation three more times:

- **March 20, 2022** - \$925
- **August 16, 2022** - \$925
- **November 6, 2022** - \$925

**North State Ecumenical Conference:** Patrick Mahan reported that a Livestream Special Event for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity would be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. There will be a range of guests/speakers including Rev. Aidan Rontani of the Episcopal Church, a panel of several faith leaders from different Christian faiths in Sacramento, and Rev. Rola Al Ashkar of Westminster Presbyterian Church as the featured speaker. The event details, including the livestream link, are posted on the SFP website and in this week's bulletin/Flock Note.

**Midtown HART:** Linda Hill attended an online meeting with Midtown HART on January 10, 2022. She was impressed at how enthusiastic the group is and how hard they work to keep people overnight and provide services to the homeless such as car services – rides to hospital, appointments, jobs and assist with putting resumes together – lots being done. It was brought to Linda what could be done for the people immediately around us. Linda noted that while SFP is able to get donations, and put a call out to people for diapers for Weave and water in the summer, we are not equipped to provide services at the level that Midtown HART is talking about, especially since Midtown HART has liaisons and ministers from non-Catholic churches, including city/county reps that get paid to provide services. Midtown HART understands, and is interested in what we can do and invites us to participate. Linda Hill asked if we would consider donations to Midtown HART. Fr. Des responded that we didn't do it at Christmas because many of these organizations get a lot of donations around Christmas and the holidays; however, we would be doing it shortly.

**Parish Council Christmas Party Wrap Up:** Emer McKenna and Francine Freitas thanked everyone for attending the Christmas Party and had a lot of fun organizing the event and working together. Appreciation was expressed in return from the council to Emer and Francine. Much fun was had by all who were able to attend. We are hopeful that next year's event will be in person.

**Pathways:** Francine Freitas reported that the Pathways team had a two hour planning meeting in December, and are meeting again on Thursday, January 18, 2022 to hone in on the details and discuss what the group would like to achieve this year.

Francine also reported that for many years now we have been coordinating with the Loaves & Fishes team and they have been an integral part of our ministry. However, we have not met since March, we have sent an email and left a voicemail and will follow up. The Loaves and Fishes team is in flux and we may need to recruit a coordinator. SFP works with Loaves & Fishes on the 3rd Sunday of every month and the volunteers are mostly older than 60-65 years old. We are hoping to have a conversation with the volunteer coordinator.

**Elementary School-CSAC Report:** Fr. Des reported on the three key topics under discussion - school enrollment and the gala. The SFP gala has been deferred to August 27, 2022 due to the pandemic. The school will hold its gala on March 12, 2022 and they are considering a remote gala like last year. The school continues to do well and has been successful in keeping up enrollment.

**Parish Council Renewal Planning Report:** Report deferred until next month.

**Faith Formation:** Week 11 – The children continue to do well online. Emer McKenna is working with Beth to determine the final dates for Sacramental preparation (Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Communion). Emer McKenna did not have an update on RCIA; however, Fr. Des was able to report that the RCIA group is the biggest group in years and continuing to do very well. Shari Roeseler and the group are working very hard.

**Liturgy Group:** Liturgy update was provided in the Pastor's report and in the Staff Liaison Report.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, February 08, 2022 which is the Feast of St. Josephine. Sue Kenney and Jo Gonsalves will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Emer McKenna led the Council in a closing prayer, and Fr. Des said a final blessing. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emer McKenna, acting secretary