

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; online via Zoom
Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Fred Bermudez, absent
Ed Condon, present
Francine Freitas, present
Jo Gonsalves, present
Darrin Greer, vice chair, excused
Margaret Healy, excused
Linda Hill, present
Melba Hinojosa, present
Sue Kenney, present

Patrick Mahan, present
Emer McKenna, present
Kent Meyers, present
Gary Myrick, present
Fr. Desmond O'Reilly, present
Bob Reid, chair, present
Janet Vitt, secretary, present

Also attending was J.D. Warrick of the parish staff.

Chair Bob Reid opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m., and Francine Freitas led a prayer.

The minutes of the January 12, 2021, regular council meeting were reviewed and upon motion by Patrick Mahan, seconded by Kent Meyers, were approved. They will be posted on the parish website.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Des made the following points:

- Masses are again being celebrated with limitations to the numbers of people who can attend. The 7:30 a.m. will be outdoors in the Parish Center Courtyard, but the 9:30 a.m. Mass will be in the church. It also will be streamed. There are weekday Masses, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:10 in the Parish Center Courtyard. Weddings and funerals can resume with limitations, which for the interior of the church means about 80 persons. He outlined the planned services for Ash Wednesday but added that no ashes will be distributed because of Covid19 concerns. He agreed with council members that individuals could initiate their own ways to observe the day, perhaps wearing a cross or burning palms and applying one's own ashes.
- The elementary school principal, Ivan Hrga, said the students are enthusiastic about a Lenten canned food drive that will be joined with a parish drive.
- Bishop Soto has advised parishes that there will not be central observance of RCIA Rites of Enrollment and Calling as there have been in years past. Each parish will conduct its own Rites when appropriate.

2021 Gala – Parish Gala Committee Chair Clayton Whitehead explained to council members some of the details of the joint Parish-School Gala:

- The March 27, 2021, event will be virtual because of the pandemic. There will be no cost to attend.

- The Greater Giving Platform will be used as it has for several years in the school's gala.
- The event will be 60 minutes long, featuring Julissa Ortiz of Channel 31's "Good Day Sacramento." She is an alum of St. Francis Elementary School. The event will feature an entertainer and the live auction. Clayton will be on hand at the Golden One production center, use of which is being donated by the Kings NBA team.
- Bidding on silent auction will open through the Greater Giving Site about 2 days before the event and will close before the start of the streamed Gala.
- The raffle will follow the tradition from the school, which means it will have cash prizes.
- VIP packages will be sold for adults and families, featuring appropriate food and beverages to be consumed in homes before or during the streamed Gala.
- Those who attended the 2019 and 2020 parish Galas will be contacted through email to promote attendance and participation in the auctions.
- Proceeds of the event are being divided between the school and parish, with the parish benefitting from its auction items and a share of the raffle and VIP packages.
- Individuals are encouraged to have online parties for guests who otherwise might have been at one table to promote and lead into the streamed Gala.
- To suggestions for ideas for the Fund-a-Need effort, Clayton reminded council members that the parish staff and Fr. Des are the ones who designate the items.
- The small Gala Committee will meet for a socially distanced workday on Feb. 21, the deadline for donations for the Silent Auction.

Chair's Report: Bob Reid limited his report to the plan by the Outreach Working Group to meet with City Council member Katie Valenzuela and her staff to learn about the city's plans to meet the crisis of homelessness in Sacramento and to share with her the long-held interest of the parish to issues involving the homeless.

Staff Liaison Report: JD Warrick said:

- Manny Dabay has been cleaning/organizing the choir loft and that he successfully replaced one hard-to-reach light bulb by crawling through the ceiling rather than having to rent a lift.
- The numbers of homes who view the streamed Sunday Mass were 390 (Jan. 17), 397 ((Jan. 24), 984 live and 182 later views (Jan. 31, a children's Mass) and 370 live plus 99 later views (Feb. 7).
- JD is investigating why the live-streaming of some Masses experience bad enough buffering problems to block attendance. Even those Masses, however, are available in their entirety on the parish YouTube and Facebook sites.

Special Reports

- **Pathways for Justice** – Francine Freitas – said the second series of the "Open Wide Our Hearts" has begun and continues Tuesdays through early March. These five sessions are in conjunction with Sr. Ann Pratt's Dominican community in Racine, Wisc. There have been about 40 participants. A four-session discussion of the Pope's "Fratelli Tutti" encyclical will launch March 14.
- **Food Drive** – Janet Vitt said the Outreach Working Group is organizing a Lenten food to support the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center in North Sacramento, which distributes food to hundreds of poor residents in that part of Sacramento. Non-perishable items will be collected after Masses on March 14 and 21. Stanford Settlement has ties to our parish and serves a

community that cannot easily get to the food banks because of transportation challenges. The Working Group sees this as an opportunity to introduce our parish more fully to our neighbors in the north part of the city.

Standing Committee Reports

- Faith Formation – Emer McKenna and Kent Meyers said the Confirmation ceremony will be on March 15.
- Finance Council – Janet Vitt – At its January 26th meeting, the Finance Council worked with contracted CPA Patrick Scribner to work out the format of regular financial reports to the Parish.
- Liturgy – Francine Freitas – Plans are being made for weekly Stations of the Cross to be streamed during Lent.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2021, by Zoom. Melba Hinojosa and Emer McKenna will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

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

Respectfully submitted by Janet Vitt, secretary