

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; online via Zoom
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Fred Bermudez, absent

Ed Condon, excused

Francine Freitas, present

Jo Gonsalves, present

Darrin Greer, vice chair, present

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, excused

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 Kent Meyers led a prayer.

The minutes of the March 9, 2021, regular council meeting were reviewed and approved upon motion by Sue Kenney, seconded by Jo Gonsalves. They will be posted on the parish website.

Chair's Report: Bob Reid reported that the Outreach Working Group will next begin to narrow our thoughts on what specific projects are appropriate for the Parish to begin to organize. Those suggestions will be developed and taken to Fr. Des for consideration.

Staff Liaison Report: JD Warrick shared this information about the reach of the streamed Masses and services:

Mass, Sunday, March 14: 259 views

- Infant Baptisms, Saturday, March 20: 162 views (these were private invitations)
- Mass, Sunday, March 21: 273 views
- Mass, Palm Sunday, March 28: 283 views
- Mass, Holy Thursday, April 2: 203 views
- Good Friday service, April 2, 229 views
- Easter Vigil, April 3: 207 views
- Mass, Easter, April 4: 383 views
- Mass, April 11: 186 views
- Stations of the Cross in March ranged from a low of 5 views on March 17 to 65 views on March 31.

Special Reports

- **2021 Gala** – Janet Vitt: See attached report.
- **Parish Connect, Stewardship Committee** – Patrick Mahan said that responses and special requests from parishioners who have been contacted so far have been passed along to appropriate staff personnel or in the case of prayers, have been entered into the Parish Book of Prayer in the church to be included in all Prayers of the Faithful. He said many of the volunteers who have conducted the calling effort have received very favorable comments by parish members. The Parish Connect effort will continue until volunteers have tried to contact all members.
- **Food Drive** – Linda Hill: Added to the bulletin and parish website will be information about how one can donate food through the Stanford Settlement’s Food Wish list on Amazon.

Standing Committee Reports

- Finance Council – Janet Vitt – No report beyond that the meeting is April 27.
- Liaison to School – Kent Meyers – See attached report.
- Faith Formation – Emer McKenna and Kent Meyers said confirmation for 27 students was a success with a flawless stream for families who could not be in the church. Some family members were in Brunsman Hall seeing a close-up view in livestreaming. Some of those folks noted that their view via streaming was much better than they would have had if they’d been allowed in the church because of social distancing. Other family members were able to “attend” the sacramental service from various parts of the country. Kent explained that the Chrism oil was distributed via surgical swabs to protect against health issues.

Emer said first Communion will be in May, likely over two weekends to accommodate pandemic spacing requirements. All services will be livestreamed by invitation.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 11, 2021, by Zoom. Darrin Greer and Bob Reid will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Jo Gonsalves led the Council in a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:17p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Vitt, secretary

Report on 2021 Joint Gala for Parish Pastoral Council

The Joint Parish-School Gala was successfully completed on March 27, 2021, with a live-streamed event from the production studio of the Golden 1 Center in downtown Sacramento.

Final figures aren't yet tallied, with a few expenses still to be determined. A few silent auction items were not picked up on March 28, and Clayton has communicated with the winners of those items. The school also has a few items to be claimed.

The Silent Auction, Live auction Foothills Sunset Dinner, the Dinner with Fr. Des, Wishlist and donations just over \$11,000. The Parish share of the cash raffle revenue will be added to that, which means the Gala took in more than double the expectation of the Parish organizing committee.

The school hopes to return to its usual time of year for its fundraiser and is looking its 2021-22 Academic year gala around Halloween. That leaves the parish traditional timing open, somewhere before but close to Ash Wednesday, which in 2022 is March 2. The Hilton Hotel is being contacted about late February availability.

That said, the six-member Gala Committee cannot proceed without more volunteers to join the committee. Any help recruiting will be appreciated. Interested individuals can contact Clayton Whitehead or me.

Submitted by Janet Vitt

1. The school community has been safe and healthy as possible within this COVID time. They have had no outbreaks or cases at school (knock on wood). The whole community has done their part in keeping the show on the road. Huge effort on everyone's part - parents cooperating and also staff with babies at home and their own children in public schools or other Catholic schools.
2. So far, they have had over new110 applicants for next school year with applications continuing to come in. They receive around 50 new applicant requests/inquiries weekly since March 1st. So far it looks like they will be relatively full next year estimating families who will return and new applicants. Next year they will be closer to capacity with large waitlists in some classes.
New applicants are not just because of public school dissatisfaction, but more so because of St. Francis' reputation on the street and the desire for something more than academics... namely the values that are taught and modeled.
3. They are having an official “**IB**” authorization visit next week (19-20th) to become an IB school for grades TK-5... this is the Primary Years Program (PYP). This has been a two-year process with detailed requirements and audits. A lot of time and brain challenge. Currently there are only eight Catholic schools in California with this certification.

The **International Baccalaureate aims** to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

The program developed in Switzerland to:

- encourage students of all ages to think critically and challenge assumptions!
- develop independently of government and national systems, incorporating quality practice from research and our global community of schools!
- encourage students of all ages to consider both local and global contexts!
- develop multilingual students!

4. **CHALLENGED** by COVID... Frustration... They have been managing and making it work. Of the 312 (330+ is normally better) current students, they have 53 left at home in distance learning. Parents were given the choice to remain at distance learning which was hard on staff, but staff agreed to do it.

All the other students are back in the building. Space is very tight with distancing and having more staff working closer to full-time in order to just manage all the students and cohorts (smaller groups). Each class use to have a part time aid now those aids are closer to full time. Little financial impact except closer to break even and fewer auxiliary professional staff... but they are managing.