

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; online via Zoom
Tuesday, June 8, 2021

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, 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 6:04 p.m., and Janet Vitt led a prayer.

The minutes of the May 12, 2021, regular council meeting were reviewed and approved upon motion by Francine Freitas, seconded by Emer McKenna. They will be posted on the parish website.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Des O'Reilly updated the council on procedures regarding the pandemic in light of the official state "re-opening" on June 15.

- He encourages anyone attending Masses in person to be vaccinated against Covid-19, but no one will be asked about vaccination status. For the foreseeable future, everyone will be asked to continue wearing masks. The extra sanitation process will continue between Masses. Social-distancing will likely continue.
- The 5:15 Saturday evening Mass has resumed in person with about 45-50 people attending.
- The 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass will continue to be live-streamed. He thanked J.D. Warrick and John Iosefa for the work they've done to make the streamed Masses so beautiful and enriching.
- It will be "quite a while" before any events take place involving the sharing of food.
- The staff will discuss whether to continue having the open-air 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Weekday Masses will continue to be in the courtyard of the Parish Center or move to the church.

Fr. Des discussed gates to be installed on the front steps to manage the ongoing sanitation problem that Manny Dabay has had to contend with.

Staff Liaison Report: JD Warrick reported on the number of persons viewing the streamed/recorded 9:30 Sunday Masses and special services:

- 05/15/21 – First Communion – SFE (invitation-only) - 129
- 05/16/21 – The Ascension of the Lord – 228
- 05/21/21 – SFE 8th Grade Graduations (Unlisted) - 369
- 05/22/21 – First Communion – Faith Formation (invitation-only) - 52
- 05/23/21 – Pentecost Sunday - 223
- 05/30/21 – The Most Holy Trinity - 186
- 06/06/21 – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - 175

Outreach Working Group: Seasonal Drive – Melba Hinojosa summarized the upcoming water drive for Loaves & Fishes. Volunteers will be on hand after each Mass the weekends of June 19-20 and 26-27 to transfer cases of bottled water from donors’ cars to vehicles that will deliver the water to Loaves & Fishes. The water drive is the third of the seasonal efforts coordinated by the Outreach Working Group, which is exploring efforts the Parish can do after the close of the Steps Ministry because of Covid-19.

Standing Committee Reports

- Stewardship – Patrick Mahan: The committee is assigning lists of parish members to volunteers so that the communication outreach effort that started before Easter can be completed. There have been a lot of positive responses to the communication effort. He said he used the phone conversations as an opportunity to tell members of the upcoming water drive and the anticipated return of in-person Masses.
- Finance Committee – Janet Vitt said – Members of the Finance Council at its May 26 meeting initiated a project to research contracts and expense areas in the budget to make sure they are each up-to-date and still serving the needs of the parish, such as office equipment, utilities, security alarm, etc. Each Finance Council member will take lead on one topic. The project is part of the ongoing budget oversight and may not result in any changes. Meanwhile, the Finance Council also is exploring methods to fundraise and welcome creative ideas from the Parish Pastoral Council. The finance Council next meets on June 22.
- Faith Formation – Emer McKenna and Kent Meyers reported that two special services celebrated the First Eucharist for children in Faith Formation and for students in St. Francis Elementary School on May 15 and May 22. Both Masses were streamed so that family members could attend

despite the restrictions in place to maintain safe social distancing. The Faith Formation classes then ended. They will resume in the new academic year.

- Pathways Committee – Francine Freitas said the June 28 Pathways presentation about gun violence and prevention will be led by the head of Americans Against Gun Violence. The Committee would also like to pursue more awareness of the efforts by religious women who have been responding to the border crisis in San Diego, Arizona, San Antonio, Laredo and the Rio Grande Valley.
- Safety Committee – Gary Myrick said with the return to in-person Masses, the time would come later this year to proceed with efforts to devise response plans for emergencies ranging from fire to active-shooter. The diocese has named a new person to address the issue. The parish committee will reach out to that person at the diocese.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2021, by Zoom. Bob Reid and Francine Freitas 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 benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Vitt, secretary