PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2020

In Attendance: Fr. Matt Marshall; Julie Steiner; Brenda Corr; Tony Shay; Cole Hewitt; Lila Cina; Matt Tubbin; Joyce Humfeld (via phone)

Absent: Dan Kiedinger; Brent Nedland; Don Wagner

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm with Fr. Matt leading the opening prayer.

NEW BUSINESS

Fr. Matt asked for council input in scheduling mass times for upcoming Holy Days of Obligation. The following mass times were set…

Tuesday, December 8th – The Feast of the Immaculate Conception
8:00 am Coon Valley
6:00 pm Viroqua

Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Coon Valley
6:30 pm Viroqua

Friday, December 25th – Christmas Day
8:00 am Coon Valley
10:30 am Viroqua

Thursday, December 31st – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
evening? (discuss time with Coon Valley)

Friday, January 1st – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
8:00 am Viroqua

Mass times were also set for Ash Wednesday, February 17th
4:00 pm Coon Valley
6:30 pm Viroqua

Fr. Matt asked the council for guidance in scheduling the Easter Triduum masses. The church requires that the Triduum masses not be split between churches, meaning Holy Thursday could not be held in Viroqua, followed by Good Friday in Coon Valley, etc. The Viroqua parish council concurred with Coon Valley parish council in recommending that Fr. Matt prepare a letter to the bishop asking for permission to mix the location of the Holy Week masses between the two parishes due to both the pandemic and a lack of fill-in clergy in the diocese.

Fr. Matt would like to reinstate the Liturgy Planning (Sacred Worship) Committee. He will ask members who served on the committee previously if they would like to serve. They include: Tony Shay, Julie Steiner, Jeanette Amundson, Jacinta Henden, Julie Moore, Barb Ross and Veronica Tresner.

Fr. Matt asked about other committees that had been active previously. The council informed him that Family Life and Social Justice committees had been in existence and a men's group had just started to begin again when the pandemic hit.

Fr. Matt asked the council about the history of the Tabernacle placement and purchase of the Divine Mercy icon. Julie Steiner said she felt the dissension that came about with regard to these topics was more about the process that was followed rather than the actual changes themselves. Fr. Matt said as a church leader he prefers to follow this quote…. "What touches upon everyone's life, everyone should have a say about." He asked the council for assistance in working thru the failure in communication that occurred with the change in the Tabernacle location and the purchase of an icon, which does not fit with everyone's artistic taste, as the Divine Mercy image. The council urged Fr. Matt to make what he feels are the best decisions on both of these topics and the council would support him.

Fr. Matt asked the council for assistance with providing names of parishioners who would be a good fit on the parish council. He foresees a council election taking place in the fall of 2021.

Fr. Matt shared his vision for a more effective religious education program for our youth. He has been involved with religious education since he was 18. He said he grows more and more concerned that parents are not involved with their children's faith experience. He would like to work toward a religious education program that focuses on the parents and instructs them how to be good mentors and teachers of our faith. A program for both parents and children would be a future goal. He suggested forming an education planning committee to aid him in this process.

It was suggested that a regular meeting time every other month be established for parish council. The council will meet the third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 6:00 pm.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm with a closing prayer. The next meeting will be January 21st, 2021 @ 6:00 pm in Marian Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Steiner