

The Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2020

Present: Father Steve, Todd Wentworth, Mike Sponsler (3rd), Tabatha Odens (3rd), Mary Jane Reif (3rd), Rita Winters (2nd), Janet Schiltgen (2nd), Jerry Kostreba (2nd), Mary Gorghuber (1st), Randy Kinney (1st), Jodi Rehovsky (1st), Francie Peterson and Carol Gaffaney.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The agenda for June 25, 2020 and the minutes of the May 28, 2020 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administrative Report

PPP Loan - Todd Wentworth said the parish received a loan in April through the Paycheck Protection Program (offered through the federal government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic). The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is a Small Business Administration 1% forgivable loan with the primary goal of keeping employees paid and small businesses financially alive. Todd noted that he expects that the parish will receive full forgiveness of the loan; that paperwork has been submitted.

412 Jefferson Street House – Todd reported that work on the house at 412 Jefferson Street, which the parish owns, has been finished - new windows and brown siding. (The parish owns the houses at 408 and 412 Jefferson Street; they are both currently being rented.

Re-opening of the Church – Father Steve said the phased re-opening of the church began on June 8th for private prayer, eucharistic adoration, and the sacrament of reconciliation, and for weekday mass on June 16th. Sunday masses will resume on July 5th, with 2 masses, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Health and safety instructions are posted, which include wearing face masks, hand sanitizing, and social distancing. He said the goal is to have the safest environment possible for people who come to the church. Many volunteers are needed due to the increased health and safety procedures, greeting and ushering people, and sanitizing the church after mass. He noted that adjustments will be made as needed. Twenty to twenty-five people have been attending daily mass. Father Steve shared some of the messages that he and office personnel have received regarding re-opening the church. Discussion followed on some of the comments that pastoral council members have heard.

Old Business

- Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization – The St. Cloud Diocese and survivors of clergy sexual abuse have reached agreement on a framework to resolve all abuse claims against the diocese and parishes. The \$22.5 million settlement includes \$14 million from the two Diocesan insurance companies and \$6.5 million from the sale of Diocesan property and holdings. Each parish in the Diocese has been asked to help monetarily.

The Diocese filed for bankruptcy on June 15th. If it is accepted, we are protected from any past cases up to the date of filing. Victims will be paid out of the fund created from parish contributions and from the other sources noted above, administered by a court-appointed trustee. If we do not participate, our insurance companies cannot help us if a claim arises from any abuse that happened within our parish boundaries. Father Steve said he has told

the Reorganization Committee for the Diocese that St. Mary's Church is willing to participate monetarily. He added that he believes it's important for us to help the victims and for the Diocese to move forward with this settlement.

- Father Steve thanked the outgoing Pastoral Council members: Mike Sponsler, Mary Jane Reif and Tabatha Odens, for serving their parish on the council for the past three years.
- Come to the Water Catholic Community Update – A meeting will be scheduled with Linda Kaiser, the six remaining pastoral council members, one trustee, Todd Wentworth and Father Steve on how to proceed from here. The combined council of the Come to the Water Catholic Community takes effect in August.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary