



Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Parish
150 Fleury Avenue
Prescott, AZ 86301

Pastoral Council Committee Meeting Minutes Feb 1, 2021
“Being the Living Example of God’s Love to Others”

Present: Fr. Raj, Jim Wren, Mike King, Henry Cromeek, Judy Carlisi, Mark Matthews, Greg Kozlowski

Absent: Beth Luce, Margarita Arellano

Guests: Kevin Keighron

Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order by Mike King at 4:00pm

Opening Prayer: Led by Mark Matthews

Approval of minutes: November 9, 2021 minutes approved

I Pastor’s Report: Fr. Raj -

- A. Return to Sacred Heart -** Fr. Raj expressed thanks and appreciation regarding all of the condolences, prayers and support from the parishioners, fellow clergy, and staff. It was a difficult time but the prayers carried him through. “The Lord is my strength.” Resumed duties on Sunday, Jan 31. Although he left before Thanksgiving, all of the Advent and Christmas programs had been planned before his departure. He is very pleased and thankful to the other Priests and staff at Sacred Heart for carrying out the needs of the Parish. Clearly the Holy Spirit is leading us.
- B. Missionary Disciples:** We are called to be strong witnesses of Christ in the modern world. How can we help parishioners live their faith?
- C. CDA:** The Charity Development Appeal begins in February. This is through the Diocese of Phoenix. This year’s goal will be to collect 138,000. The details will be forthcoming in the homilies. Fr. Raj expressed that we all should continue our charitable activities to St. Vincent dePaul, Catholic Charities and other charitable organizations, which show Christian solidarity. Although the pandemic hit hard we continue to have generous parishioners.
- D. Budget:** Budget preparations are underway.
- E. Catholic Schools Week -** Fr. urged that we join in and celebrate the live streamed Mass with Bishop Olmsted on Wednesday, Feb 3 at 8:15am.
- F. Annual Claretian Retreat for Clergy- Feb 1- Feb 5 -** The retreat, typically held in Los Angeles, will be live streamed. Fr. asked that we conclude the Pastoral council meeting by 4:50pm so that he could attend the retreat on time.
- G. Sacred Heart Parish Livestream Mass-** Improvements needed especially with sound. This is being pursued.
- H. Lenten Program:** Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Sacred Heart will have a Lenten program with the intention of helping the Parish to prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery. Details will be forthcoming.

II Parish Manager’s Report: Jim Wren

- A. Advent Mission -** The Advent Mission led by Fr. Zachary was well received. There were 40-50 people at the church to listen and hundreds attended the livestream. The program was also recorded, with permission from Fr. Zachary, onto You-Tube.
- B. Budget -** Budgets were turned in on Friday, Jan. 29. Revenue is down although there has been an increase in online giving. The goal this year will be to keep expense levels the same or lower and keep to the basics. No new staff will not be added. There will be a discussion as to how the

\$50,000 of matched online giving will be spent toward evangelization efforts. The finance council will be discussing the budget at their February 24th meeting.

- C. CDA:** The kick off for the Charity and Development Appeal will be the weekend of Feb 13,14. Parishioners can give through pledge cards in a basket near the entries, or they can give online. Sacred Heart was chosen as one of 6 parishes for a fundraising pilot program. A video slideshow of a designated family (This year the Carlisi Family) will be posted to the website encouraging others to give. A Chairman for the appeal is not required.
- D. Revive Program:** This Diocesan program was to be launched on Thurs. Feb. 4. This phenomenal Evangelization program can be viewed at one's convenience. The parish is looking at bringing it to Sacred Heart in some form.

III Old Business:

- A. Pastoral Plan:** To be efficient, Mike King asked that all Council members email comments to him regarding the Pastoral Plan Faith Formation section.
- B. Concerns and General Feedback or Advent and Christmas Feedback:**
 - 1) Henry: Conversations have been difficult in the environment we are in, especially when trying to have conversations with others after Mass while wearing masks. Covid is limiting us in exploring what we can do. Not sure how we can get past that. Communication is difficult in this environment.
 - 2) Judy: We do seem disconnected. It is going to take some time. People may not jump back in and it may not feel normal for some time. Would like to see a new youth minister hired to bring energy back into the youth program.
 - 3) Mark: He hears lots of enthusiasm when making calls to new parishioners. People want to help and they want to be involved in the new ministries. Was not sure if St. Vincent was meeting. Henry affirmed that St. Vincent dePaul is meeting online every Wednesday at 9:30am. Would like Lenten mission to be a barn burner. It will lift Spirits. Small faith group is reading Pope Francis' latest encyclical about how we can cope with this pandemic and how we can be a better community in the world. He would like to see this integrated into the Lenten mission.
 - 4) Henry: Also shared that Thursday morning from 9am-11am Sr Anne and Char are holding a zoom meeting which is a 9 week session on racism based on the Pope's Encyclical that came out last October. A chapter is covered every week with 30-36 people attending.
 - 5) Greg: Not feeling very connected to the parish, not just from the pandemic, but prior to the pandemic. Has been involved at Embry Riddle as well as a Bible study led by Deacon Avery. His screen freezes up when he watches Sacred Hearts Mass livestream. Hoping to see that resolved. He heard the Abbot of a Benedictine monastery say, "Faith is caught, not taught." Greg's calling is in Spirituality. He is disturbed by Bishop Olmsted's announcement that Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence. We are called to evangelize. Greg's goal is to facilitate and support programs that would lead Catholics into a mature, healthy, and mystical experience of Christ. How to go about that requires our efforts, but also to call upon the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.
 - 6) Mike: Agrees that it is difficult to connect. We can see each other, but the connection in his mind is not there like it normally is. Feels like everything on the council is moving slowly. He sees people at Mass or sees their names pop up on the livestream at Mass, but does not know how they are doing. He knows Fr. Ralph makes phone calls but he does not know how people are doing. He feels uncertainty in our parish culture. Challenging times. He is working hard at trusting in The Lord. Asked if we had read the book, "I Heard God Laugh." It is about prayer, and the kind of prayer that is necessary. It talks about being busy, which is not good for us. It discusses our quality of prayer, saying "no," trusting in the Lord, talking to the Lord, and the Lord talking to us. This book is being

distributed around the Diocese and is a tremendous gift. Mike has a list of things we would like to implement in 2021: Pastoral council; strategic plan; MVV; the D5 Program. He would like to see these things implemented so they are not just in a binder or on a wall.

- 7) Kevin: Wondering if there is a disconnect between our Diocese, the clergy, and the parishioners. He has not heard a discussion or a homily about the Bishops concerns regarding the belief in the Eucharist at our parish. Maybe this is because of Covid and we are not connected? How are we going to work together on these issues that are on our minds?

IV New Business: None

IV – Summary and Announcements:

A. Next Pastoral council meeting: Proposed for Monday, March 1st. via zoom at 4pm. Work on Faith formation items and email them to Mike.

B. Fr Raj- Closing comments: Fr. thanked all of the Pastoral council members for feedback. Remain in hope and be kind. The Christian likeness is all about hope. Be the messengers of hope. The whole world can be desperate. They can be frustrated, but as Christians we cannot be frustrated. We have to be the messengers of hope all the time. The Lord gives us strength. It is a hard time. Be the messengers of hope in your own families, in your neighborhood, and in your parish community. Fr. will consider our comments and concerns and hopes the next meeting will be lighter. The Holy Spirit is working with us and He will not forsake us. Have faith!!!

C. Homework for the next meeting: Please email Mike King any thoughts on faith formation for the Pastoral plan. Previous handout B gives some ideas from the November minutes.

D. Prayer intentions: Special prayers for a fellow council member.

VI- Closing Prayer - Led by Mark Matthews

VII Meeting Adjourned 4:57pm

Respectfully submitted by Judy Carlisi