

Our Lady of Lourdes+St. Anne Pastoral Council

December 2, 2021

7:00 to 8:30 PM

St. Anne Church Social Hall

In attendance:

Doug Doyle, Bob Dutt, Karen Gerew, Deb Gray, Joe Haefner, Alana Nuth, Dennis Permoda, Tom Walsh, Father Gary Tyman, and Deacon Bill Rabjohn

Agenda:

1. Prayer (Father Tyman)
2. Introductions
3. Discussion of the role of the Pastoral Council
 - a. The Council is coming back together with new membership after a hiatus. The Council primary serves as an advisory group to the Pastor (Father Tyman) along with the Finance Council. The membership is made up of parishioners from both parishes, ideally in equal number with Father Tyman and Deacon Bill Rabjohn serving as ex officio members.
 - b. Please see the Covenant of the Pastoral Council of Our Lady of Lourdes+St. Anne Cluster (2010).
4. Selection of chair, vice-chair, and secretary
 - a. Tom Walsh will serve as chair
 - b. Doug Doyle will serve as vice-chair
 - c. Alana Nuth will serve as secretary
 - d. These terms are for one-year. After one-year, the vice-chair (Doug Doyle) will assume the role of chair.
5. Setting Council members terms
 - a. The membership will serve the following terms with the option to seek reappointment at the end of their term:
 - i. Doug Doyle (SA) two-year term expiring June 30, 2024
 - ii. Bob Dutt (SA) three-year term expiring June 30, 2025
 - iii. Annmarie Cook (OLOL) three-year term expiring June 30, 2025
 - iv. Karen Gerew (SA) two-year term expiring June 30, 2024
 - v. Deb Gray (OLOL) one-year term expiring June 30, 2023
 - vi. Joe Haefner (SA) one-year term expiring June 30, 2023
 - vii. Terri Kwiatkowski (OLOL) three-year term expiring June 30, 2025
 - viii. Alana Nuth (SA) three-year term expiring June 30, 2025
 - ix. Dennis Permoda (OLOL) two-year term expiring June 30, 2024
 - x. Tom Walsh (OLOL) one-year term expiring June 30, 2023
6. Determining future meeting dates
 - a. The Council will meet the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. For the months of January through May, the Council will meet at the St. Anne Social Hall.

For the months of June and September through December, the Council will meet at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

7. Issues for future meetings:

a. COVID protocols:

i. In response to the rising number of COVID cases and hospitalizations in Monroe County as well as the holiday and winter season, the Council discussed the possibility of implementing additional COVID protocols for masses with the goal of avoiding a COVID outbreak and keeping both churches open and operational for mass and other activities.

1. Protocols suggested: roping off every other pew to enforce social distancing and making an announcement during mass that parishioners should maintain social distancing as they get Communion by leaving a pew's distance between themselves and the person ahead of them.

2. Additional points of discussion:

a. At holiday masses, it's likely that a greater number of people from out of town (perhaps also from states and regions with COVID protocols different from NYS) will be visiting mass as well as people who are not regular attendees and therefore may not be aware of our COVID protocols at both churches.

b. Spiritual health and the opportunity to attend mass and see fellow parishioners is extremely important always and especially at the present time.

c. Parishioners need to feel comfortable and safe, especially the members of both parishes that fall within a high-risk population for COVID.

d. The Council also discussed applying stickers or labels to the floor of both churches to guide parishioners to keep a distance. The Council ultimately decided to not pursue this protocol as we doubted the effectiveness.

3. As a related topic, it's time to consider resume passing the collection basket. Restarting this practice will require the service of at least two, ideally four, ushers at each mass.

a. Additional points of discussion:

i. Finding ushers to serve can be challenging and will likely be even more challenging in the present time. Could the Knights of Columbus be enlisted to help? What about high school student volunteers who need service hours for their confirmation?

ii. It would be nice to also have greeters at each mass. Perhaps we could offer a sign-up sheet and a family could sign up for masses to serve as greeters.

- iii. What if we only passed the basket at holiday masses as these masses see a lot of donations as well as out of town attendees?
 - iv. A credit card kiosk that parishioners could use to make a donation via credit card would be very helpful but is discouraged by the Diocese because of security risks.
- b. Pastoral planning with Our Lady Queen of Peace and St. Thomas More:
 - i. The Bishop has asked the pastors at both clusters to begin pastoral planning to combine services. This need for pastoral planning is being driven by two factors: a shortage of priests and a decline in mass attendance.
 - ii. There is already a Pastoral Planning Committee whose membership represents parishioners from both clusters as well as Father Tyman, Father Hart, Deacon Bill Rabjohn, and Mary Lou Basile (SA) and Mark Greiseberger (OLOL). The Pastoral Council will likely be consulted as further pastoral planning takes place.
 - iii. Some shared services already exist between both clusters:
 - 1. A central finance office and finance staff. The finances for each church are kept separate but a single staff member maintains the records for all four churches.
 - 2. The faith formation director, Jennifer Abdalla, serves all four churches.
 - 3. The Social Ministry at OLOL/SA has been collaborating with the Outreach Committee at Our Lady Queen of Peace and St. Thomas More.
 - 4. The clusters held a joint staff picnic in August and are looking at the possibility of a joint staff holiday party.
 - iv. Additional points of discussion:
 - 1. Council members expressed concern of recent parish closures. Father Tyman and Father Hart are committed to keeping all four parishes open.
 - 2. Father Judge from McQuaid Jesuit School serves at one mass each month which gives Father Lawlor the weekend off.