**St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**

February 16, 2021

**Meeting** – The Parish Pastoral Council meeting was conducted via Zoom in the face of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic which precludes face-to-face meetings.

**Opening Prayer**

Father John opened the meeting with prayer asking God’s blessing on the sick and their caregivers, our community and country, and the success of the vaccine.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for January 19, 2021 were approved for posting to the St. Christopher website by Dawn Bloom.

**Religious Education Office Updates**

* PSR – This ministry continues to operate virtually. Sharon Armstrong, Director of Religious Education, and a team of volunteers have created Lenten bags of age-appropriate activities for students and their families to enrich their Lenten experience. These Lenten Family Bags are available for both PSR and St. Christopher School families.
* St. Christopher School
  + Advance registration is currently running ahead of this time last year.
  + The Pre-School is proving to be incredibly popular.
  + First Reconciliation is complete now. Approximately 15 families have chosen to wait due to the ongoing pandemic. Another opportunity will be afforded for First Reconciliation in March.

**Ministries and Events Updates**

* Ladies Guild
  + The Ladies Guild continues to reach out to Guild members with weekly emails every Monday – and an array of virtual activities to engage members.
    - Sanctified Yoga enrolled 20 and 12 participated.
    - 25 have signed up for the upcoming 40-day Lenten Immersion with Claire Kaufman.
    - Andrea Mediate will facilitate an opportunity on March 24th to learn about responsible recycling. Andrea is the leader of the Rocky River green team
* Social Concerns will be promoting activities to benefit various non-profit agencies during Lent through the Parish Bulletin, Facebook, and other communications channels. Good ideas for Lenten observance will be offered.
* Parish Pastoral Council
  + Two members whose terms expire in 2021 have yet to respond to the opportunity to serve another term
  + Nancy Bulic will be resigning from her Council service at the end of the 2020 – 2021 year.
* Lent
  + Ashes will be distributed on Ash Wednesday – without touch for COVID compliance
  + The St. Christopher Bulletin, the upcoming ***Belltower Beacon*** and the Parish website will provide a list of various Lenten activities including
    - Stations of the Cross in the daytime and evenings
    - Holy Hour observances
    - Gospel preparation opportunities on Monday evenings prior to the succeeding weekend liturgies
    - A three Saturday mini-retreat series
    - Web-based Stations of the Cross and praying the Rosary
    - Palms on Palm Sunday as parishioners exit the Church
    - Holy Week services
    - Good Friday outdoor Stations of the Cross in the Centennial Park pavilion. The traditional Stations of the Cross trek through the City of Rocky River cannot be accommodated in 2021 due to pandemic concerns.

**Called for More**

* A Diocesan-wide survey in support of parish and priestly life will be introduced at St. Christopher this upcoming weekend. The objective is to profile each parish and each priest and to listen to the people in support of priests and parishes. A 75-question survey – the “Disciple Maker Index Survey” – will be offered to all parishioners on-line and as a paper document. Parishioners are instructed to consider both their individual spiritual growth and their parish community. Time to complete the survey is estimated to be 10 – 15 minutes. There is no provision for comments. The survey is targeted to active parishioners and has limited value for those who do not participate in Parish life. The survey process will be completed in mid-March.
* **Called for More** in the Diocese of Cleveland is part of a national program. 37 dioceses (of 196 total) have already completed their surveys. The Lilly Foundation is underwriting this Catholic Leadership Institute program nationwide. The survey was developed by the Catholic Leadership Institute. Questions elicit information about the individual’s Catholic background and personal faith journey; connections to the parish and parish community; relationship with the parish, pastor and faith; personal faith; church participation; and basic demographic data.
* Pastoral Associate Gayle Cilimburg will be overseeing the execution of the survey process at St. Christopher as the key contact.
* Ten identified key Parish leaders will be asked by Father John to complete 26 additional questions.
* This survey is expected to complement the 2018 Parish Survey in addressing Parish goals and activities in support of achieving the identified goals.
* Information regarding **Called for More** will be detailed in the upcoming ***Belltower*** ***Beacon***.

**Father John Updates**

* Mass Schedule –
  + The weekend liturgies will resume offering three Sunday Masses during Lent and the Easter season at 8:30, 10 and 11:30 AM.
  + The 9 and 11 o’clock Mass offerings during January and February worked well. No one was turned away due to COVID capacity constraints. There may be consideration for offering two Sunday liturgies again during the summer months.
* Mary’s Room
  + Renovation work is underway now while demand for the space is restricted. A new ceiling and flooring will be installed. Bathrooms and kitchen facilities will be upgraded.
  + Capital campaign money is making this work financially possible.
* Catholic Charities
  + The annual appeal will be made this upcoming weekend at all Masses.

**Parish Pastoral Plan** – Goals 3 – 7

* A separate Addendum to these minutes covers this portion of the meeting. All Council members participated.

**Closing Prayer**

The meeting closed with a reading of the St. Christopher Parish Mission Statement and the collective reflection of all present.

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 – the 3rd Tuesday in March

7 – 8:30 PM

Via Zoom – with access details to be provided in advance

**Addendum to the St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes   
for February 16, 2021**

**The St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Plan**

Cheryl Selak facilitated discussion of the Parish Pastoral goals. All agreed that given the current pandemic constraints that the Plan discussion would focus on affirming what has been done and setting aside for now what cannot be done. The meeting objective was to complete the overview of all seven goals and avoid belaboring discussions that are futile in the face of current reality. The intent is to address now what can be accomplished and defer till later what is best deferred.

Discussion highlights follow.

Goal #4: Articulate a clear sense of mission and purpose for the Parish.

A. Publish the goals developed as a result of the survey, the timeline for its implementation and provide regular updates of progress in implementing the goals.

ACCOMPLISHED & ONGOING

* + This goal was met with a comprehensive update of the Survey results in the ***Belltower Beacon*** in June 2020.
  + A post-pandemic update will be important to keep the Parish informed of ongoing activities.

B. Continue to provide quality education in our Day School and Religious Education Programs

ACCOMPLISHED

* + Principal Scott Raiff accomplishes this daily. Observations that support this include:
  + Mr. Raiff has done an outstanding job during COVID in keeping everyone informed
  + Mr. Raiff is innovative in accomplishing student achievement
  + Mr. Raiff has built a great sense of community. He has “turned the school around”
  + Mr. Raiff personally welcomes every child to school every morning
* Director of Religious Education Sharon Armstrong is commended for doing a great job managing a virtual learning environment during the ongoing pandemic. Observations that support this include:
  + PSR is going great with a super active 2nd grade
  + Parents are satisfied with ZOOM and the books used
  + Attendance is good. It was noted, however, that sports continue to supersede PSR for many families.
  + Good communication continues completely through parents to their children.
  + A BIG job of creating Lenten activities for St. Chris School and PSR students was accomplished by a team effort: over 200 parent packets and some 500 age-appropriate student packets were created including all 8th graders in the Confirmation class.

C. Better communicate the Parish Mission Statement so it is more familiar to all Parishioners

ONGOING

* + Reinforce the Parish Mission Statement by ensuring its presence in all Parish written communications:
    - Weekly Bulletin
    - Parish website
    - Constant Contact
    - Capital campaign literature
    - All publications
  + Create a banner for the Parish Center Gathering Area that includes the Parish Mission Statement
  + Include the Parish Mission Statement on School and PSR materials
  + Encourage Parish ministries to include the Parish Mission Statement in all their meetings and on all their publications