**St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**

October 19, 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**

In Father John’s absence while on retreat, Gayle Cilimburg opened the meeting with prayer, petitioning God’s wisdom to guide us as we discern Parish needs and offering thanks to God for the autumnal beauty of nature which surrounds us.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for September 21, 2021, were approved for posting to the St. Christopher website by Parish Office Manager Dawn Bloom.

**Religious Education Office Updates**

* Special Sunday morning Masses were celebrated in the Parish Center at 8:30 and 10 AM on October 17th to bless the catechists and the altar servers. In addition to PSR students, the parents of second graders received email and Constant Contact invitations to attend. Cantor Michelle Romary led the liturgical music, and lectors were specially chosen for these PSR Masses.
* A Biblical Walk through the Mass program will begin Wednesday, October 20th for five Wednesday evenings. Parishioners are encouraged to participate. The goal of 25 participants has already been exceeded with 35 registered to attend.

**St. Christopher School Updates**

* Principal Scott Raiff has announced his intention to retire at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Raiff served 30 years in education prior to his seven years as St. Christopher School Principal. He will be involved in the recruitment of his successor. Parish Council members whose children attend St. Christopher School said Mr. Raiff will leave BIG shoes to fill: that he “leads with love” and that he has “rock star” status in the School.

**Called For More**

* Gayle Cilimburg prepared and reviewed with Council a Parish assessment of the March 2021 Called for More Survey. The strengths and opportunities as reflected by parishioner input was examined in detail. Further, an assessment was made of the Called For More Survey results relative to the October 2018 Parish Survey to consider progress made toward achieving the goals set for St. Christopher Parish based on the 2018 Parish Survey.
* The Parish results of the Called For More Survey relative to the 2018 Parish Survey shows improvements in achieving all the established goals based on the 2018 Survey and favorable parishioner reaction to the changes that have been made.
* The Catholic Leadership Institute continues to be plagued by technology issues and has provided limited results of their analysis of the key Parish leaders segment of the Called For More Disciple Maker Index Survey conducted at St. Christopher in February and March 2021.
* A copy of the Called For More Parish assessment is attached under filename: *Called for More Survey Results\_10192021*

**Ministries and Events Updates**

Council members were referred to the September minutes for Ministries and Events Updates. A recap of the September Updates highlights follows:

* Ladies Night Out
  + Ladies Night Out has been postponed. Options for proceeding safely indoors and outdoors were considered. The decision was made to hold the event in the Spring 2022. Vendors for the evening have all been notified of the rescheduling.
* Ladies Guild
  + The Sunset Social in Centennial Park on September 16th offered perfect weather for some twenty women who gathered. A mix of ages participated, including one dedicated former Ladies Guild president recently released from the hospital.
* St. Christopher School
  + The Trunk or Treat Halloween celebration is scheduled for Thursday, October 28th
* Parish Evening of Remembrance
  + The annual event will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 2nd
  + The traditional photo display of those remembered is planned.
* Music Ministry
  + The Bowling Green concert at St. Christopher was rescheduled for October 29th.
* Young Adults
  + A pumpkin carving event will be held on Thursday, October 21st
* Christmas GIFT wreath
  + Parish giving to the needy through the annual Christmas GIFT wreath will be live again this year – after the need to be virtual in 2020.
* Biblically Speaking with Father Anthony
  + The program being held the first Friday and Saturday of the month, after the 11 AM and 5 PM Masses, respectively, is drawing about a dozen participants to each session.
* Taizé prayer
  + This evening of peaceful prayer – singing, praying, candle lighting – is scheduled for Sunday, December 5th
* Books
  + A cleanout of extra books in the Parish inventory has yielded a book “giveaway” now underway in the Gathering Area.
  + The Parish will give a Christmas gift to each family this year, a copy of Matthew Kelly’s newly released ***Life Is Messy.***
* Parish Bulletin
  + Beginning the first weekend in October, the weekly Parish Bulletin resumed incorporating a Mass worship aid for the weekend liturgy.

**Father John Updates**

* Centennial Celebration
  + Committees and subgroups are meeting now.
  + St. Christopher Parish School will be involved in the celebration.
* Centennial Park Issues
  + The situation has improved.
  + Video surveillance has improved.
  + Rocky River Police Department, School officials and the neighborhood have a raised awareness to control problems in Centennial Park.
* Universal Church Synod
  + The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is gathering information on an array of topics from parishes nationwide.
  + Father Anthony will take the lead for the Parish in this initiative as it unfolds.
* Parish Finance Report
  + The Parish Financial Report will be made available this weekend in the Parish Bulletin to include the Parish Income Statement and Balance Sheets for both Church and School.
* Property Improvements
  + Capital improvements are being completed
  + Necessary tuck-pointing on the Church building is being financially assessed now.
* Pandemic Impact
  + Church attendance is now approximately 50% of the level two years ago – before the ongoing global pandemic. Anecdotally, this is consistent with other parishes in the Diocese.
  + A count of Church attendees was taken at all four Masses for two weekends – October 2 – 3 and 9 – 10: 716 + 654 for a total of 1,370 in attendance. The average weekend attendance for the two weekends was 685. 225 attended the 11:30 October 3rd Mass which included Confirmation candidates; the following weekend 132 attended the 11:30 Mass.
  + Council members noted the supply of available Sunday Bulletins is being depleted.
* Solar Panel Recommendation
  + Council members weighed in on the proposal to install solar panels with the financial support of a parishioner couple. The goals include supporting the Vatican encyclical ***Laudato Si*** and taking advantage of the opportunity to defray a portion of the cost of a new roof for the Parish Center and School.
  + The following comments were elicited when asked if this proposal should be acted upon now or tabled for now:
    - Table the proposal for now. There is no good reason to be “first to jump in the pool.”
    - Payoffs are uncertain.
    - Risks are yet to be realized.
    - There is insufficient information to support this proposal now.
    - The St. Christopher Church centennial and other priorities should take precedence.
    - This will not be the last opportunity with the growing emphasis on conservation.
    - There is no pressing reason without knowing the full facts.
    - There could be lots of unintended consequences.
    - More information/less risk is needed to proceed.
    - This is a complicated and detail-oriented project.
    - There is a need to find someone with the expertise to tackle this project and operationalize it.
    - Private enterprises are not widely adopting this now, so what motivates St. Christopher?
    - How does this affect Parish spirituality which is the domain of Parish Pastoral Council?
  + On balance, the consensus seemed to favor tabling the proposal for now.

**Parish Pastoral Council**

* Contact List
  + An updated 2021 – 2022 roster of St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council members was distributed. Updated information is included for one member of Council.
* 2021 – 2022 Theme: Celebrate
  + Connect to the Parish Centennial:
    - Ken Szabo and Gayle Cilimburg as members of the Centennial Committee volunteered to attend the upcoming Centennial Committee meeting on November 9th and follow-up at the next Council meeting with ideas for Council to support the Centennial activities.
    - Chris Rosati volunteered to discuss with Angela Rosati who serves on the Centennial Committee ideas that might suit Council involvement in support of Centennial activities.
  + Establish a means to raise Parish Ministries awareness through involvement in Donut Sundays.
    - Focus on one Ministry each month.
    - Donut Sunday is already established monthly. The next event is November 14th. Donut Sundays primarily serve PSR children and parents. There is no Saturday “social” after the 5 PM Mass.
    - Ken Szabo and Bill Blough volunteered to collaborate with Marilu Norena.
* Personal value of Parish Pastoral Council
  + Council will discuss this subject at our next meeting, November 16th.
  + Council members agreed to reflect on this subject and send their advance comments to Cheryl Selak by November 10th.
* Prayer
  + Council members collectively desire to incorporate a more significant prayer element into the ongoing meeting – even by Zoom.
  + Prayer Intentions will be added to the meeting agenda to follow the Opening Prayer.
  + Council members will be given an individual opportunity to close the meeting with prayer. A favorite prayer or Bible selection with a brief explanation of its personal meaning will be presented on a rotating basis. Ken Szabo began this evening. Larry Murtaugh volunteered to offer our prayer in November; Bonnie Twitchell volunteered for January. The designated Council member for Closing Prayer will continue with the Parish Mission Statement to conclude the evening.

**Closing Prayer**

Ken Szabo offered a “personal favorite” Psalm 51 after explaining that in 2021 he has committed to reading the Bible cover-to-cover. He concluded the meeting with the St. Christopher Parish Mission Statement.

**Next Meeting**

* Tuesday, November 16, 2021 – the third Tuesday in November

7 – 8:30 PM

Via Zoom – with access details to be provided in advance

**Called for More Survey**

**Catholic Leadership Institute**

**St. Christopher Results**

**Top 3 Strengths by Highest Percentage Strongly Agree**

1. **Belief: Eucharist is body/blood of Christ**
2. **Belief: Scripture is word of God**
3. **Community: Information availability**

**Top 3 Strengths by Highest Percentage Monthly or More Often**

1. **Frequency: Individual prayer time**
2. **Frequency: Mass attendance**
3. **Frequency: Prayer with someone**

**Top 3 Opportunities by Lowest Percentage Strongly Agree**

1. **Conversations: Sharing personal story**
2. **Conversations: Confidence in teachings**
3. **Conversations: Sharing story of Jesus**

**Top 3 Opportunities by Lowest Percentage Monthly or More Often**

1. **Frequency: Retreat**
2. **Frequency: Invited another to religious life**
3. **Frequency: Invited man to priesthood**

**Looking in more detail to the results the report looks at:**

**Beliefs, Effectiveness and Drivers for Big Outcomes in 4 Categories:**

1. **Key Drivers – Questions that are statistically significant with respect to a parishioner’s likelihood to recommend the parish, say the parish is helping them grow spiritually, and frequency with which they are sharing their faith.**

**Our top strengths:**

1. **Likelihood to recommend the parish:**
   1. **Community: Information availability**
   2. **Recommend Pastor**
   3. **Community: Welcoming**
   4. **Growth via: Preaching**
   5. **Growth via: Mass**
   6. **Conversations: God’s work in my life**
   7. **Growth via: Forming as a Disciple**
2. **Share a Personal Witness Story:**
   1. **Belief: Scripture is word of God**
   2. **Conversations: Sharing story of Jesus**
   3. **Conversations: Confidence in teachings**
   4. **Conversations: Sharing personal story**

**Our top opportunities:**

1. **Frequency: Invited someone to Mass**
2. **Frequency: Invited someone to parish activity**
3. **Frequency: Pastoral counseling/spiritual direction**
4. **Belief in Core Catholic Teaching – Questions related to parishioners’ degree of belief in core teachings of the faith.**

**Our top strengths:**

1. **Belief: Jesus died and rose again**
2. **Belief: Eucharist is body/blood of Christ**
3. **Belief: Scripture is word of God**
4. **Belief: Jesus moral teachings**
5. **Belief: Church critical in relationship with God**
6. **Belief: Authority of the Church**
7. **Effectiveness of Parish Support - Questions related to how well the parish supports parishioners personally and spiritually.**

**Our top strengths:**

1. **Connecting me with Catholic Community:**
2. **Community: Online Communication**
3. **Community: Information availability**
4. **Community: Support in time of need**
5. **Community: Opportunities to serve**
6. **Community: Follow up on Involvement**
7. **Fostering my Spiritual Growth:**
   1. **Parish helps spiritual growth**
   2. **Growth via: Music deepens participation**
   3. **Growth via: Preaching**
   4. **Growth via: Sacramental prep**
   5. **Growth via: Mass**
8. **Supporting and Educating children in the Catholic faith**
   1. **Recommend parish school**
   2. **Support for child discipleship**
   3. **Recommend parish religious education**
9. **Parish Heatmap – Shows the results for 9 key factors for your parish**

**Our top strengths:**

1. **Belief: Scripture is word of God**
2. **Recommend Parish**
3. **Belief: Eucharist is body/blood of Christ**
4. **Community: Welcoming**
5. **Growth via: Preaching**
6. **Parish helps spiritual growth**
7. **Growth via: Mass**

**Factors of a Thriving Parish in 4 Categories**

1. **Leadership Indicators- Question most directly related to parish leadership.**

**Our top strengths:**

1. **Recommend Parish**
2. **Recommend Pastor**
3. **Recommend Parish Staff**
4. **Community: Financial transparency**
5. **Recommend Other Priests**
6. **Community: Opportunities to serve**
7. **Community: Follow up on involvement**
8. **Community: Involved in decisions**
9. **Sunday Experience – Questions directly related to the Sunday experience.**

**Our top strengths:**

1. **Community: Welcoming**
2. **Growth via: Music deepens participation**
3. **Growth via: Preaching**
4. **Growth via: Mass**
5. **Spiritual Practices – Questions related to the faith practices of your people.**

**Our top strengths:**

1. **Frequency: Individual prayer time**
2. **Frequency: Mass attendance**

**4. Missionary Impulse – Questions related to the missionary**

**discipleship of your people.**

**Our top strengths**

1. **Parents responsible for growth of child**
2. **Frequency: Prayed with someone**

**Our top opportunities:**

1. **Frequency: In many categories we do not invite others or include others in our activities and spiritual life.**