

Minutes of PPC Meeting- 03/31/2020

Meeting convened at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Present-Father Joe, Paul Dufresne, Rose Grieco, Beth Schuman, Don Pierini, Meghan Amend, David Iaccino, Karen Salasblancas, Matt Deneen

Dealing with Covid-19

Group shared how each of us is dealing with various aspects of the current situation in the workplace, work at home or in stay-at-home mode.

Old Business

- **Retreat** follow up-attendance was 36 people out of a possible 39 sign ups. With this late surge in attendees (which is a positive!!) the impact was noted by some not so much as a negative but something to be aware of in future planning. Over all the response was positive both in terms of the program and the site

New Business

- **Council Nominations-** In light of the current circumstances, Father Joe posed the question to the council regarding extending the existing terms for one more year. The sentiment was one of agreement.

Post Pandemic- The balance of the meeting dealt with how can we best respond to this current situation for all of our fellow parishioners. The belief being that we will return to a “normal” schedule with mass being offered and all related parish activities taking place. The unknown is just when that will occur. Father

Joe offered possible options/steps: including a specific day where in the physical church “Opens the Doors’ for a significant time period (12 hours or more) with parishioners on hand to welcome and offer support to any and all whom may want to take advantage of this day’s event, another thought was to provide or house group meeting(s) or efforts to allow parishioners to share or come to terms with the individual and shared experience from this time of isolation, in addition with the current stay at home we hope take advantage of the weekly Happenings newsletter to start a conversation or share experiences with fellow parishioners. One paragraph or so as written items maybe forwarded to Father Joe’s e-mail to be included in Happenings.

Other folks ideas included a Mass dedicated to those who have died during this time possibly on All Souls Day in November if not before. The thought was that an individual might be commemorated with a photo or a single flower but in some special manner to provide closure to friends and family members.

To recap possible activities:

1. Opening the doors. Literally opening the church from 6am-midnight so people can come in. We are open.
2. Pizza party or some type of celebration
3. Serious talks with those affected and wanting to share experiences and feelings
4. Mass for the Dead, including bringing something forth as to represent the person - possibly on All Soul's Day
5. Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate our return - perhaps a procession into church to be visible to the community and provide a sense of togetherness as we come back into our space.

Lastly having utilized Zoom for this meeting, Beth was hoping to employ Zoom for Scripture Study & possibly for launching “Alpha on Line”

Father Joe closed the meeting with a prayer