

## **PPC Minutes 19 November 2020 (6:30pm-8:00pm) (ZOOM)**

### **Attendees**

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

### **Opening Prayer**

Paul read a commentary on social justice with an attendant prayer written by Martin Luther King entitled *Jericho Road*. Fr. Joe reinforced the distinction that MLK was making between social justice and charity.

### **Book (Caste) discussion**

Members conducted a spirited discussion of Part 1, reflecting on their personal experiences with discrimination and the underlying presumption of caste. Father observed that churches were often previously segregated by economic rank as well as race and ethnicity.

Part 2 will be discussed at the next PPC.

### **Old Business**

Church Art:

- Fr. Joe discussed several potential additions to Assumption's statuary, to include the native American Saint, Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan, and Blessed Stanley Rother, a priest from Oklahoma, who was killed in Guatemala in 1981. Father also read a letter from a parishioner that discussed the difficulties in replacing or augmenting the church's statuary. The parishioner offered up various options to include modifying the Stations of the Cross, funding an artist of color in residency, and sponsoring a competition. An animated discussion among the council members ensued, for and against some of the suggestions. Fr. Joe said the council (and parish) will continue the conversation.

Church sanitization options/Christmas plan:

- Fr. Joe described a sanitization option that involved putting persistent antimicrobial coatings on surfaces within the church, but said he was unable to get confirmation from the diocese of the viability of such a procedure. Father said we would be getting a fogging machine to disinfect pew surfaces that will be considerably simpler to implement and will prevent further damage to the pews.
- The Christmas schedule will continue as discussed at the last PPC, with masses at 3:00, 5:00, 8:00 and 10:00 on the 24th and 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, and 12:15 on the 25th. Fr. Joe said he would alert the parish to the schedule beginning on December 1st to emphasize the importance of the reservation system.

### **New Business**

Renew my Church:

Father Joe recapped a 17 Nov meeting between the archdiocesan coordinators of Renew My Church and the six pastors in our grouping (St. James, St. Mary, St. Patrick, St. Peter, Holy Name, and Assumption). Highlights follow:

- Due to the pandemic and the uncertainties it brings, the pastors requested a postponement of the activation date until summer and the coordinators agreed.

- The consolidation objectives are aimed less at maintenance than at how the parishes can best jointly advance their goals of discipleship and evangelization i.e. how do they physically and spiritually prepare themselves for pursuing those objectives.
- The top 5 reasons people either stop attending church or leave are:
  - no personal faith experience
  - no sense of community
  - a poor worship service
  - they are taught ideas that do not resonate
  - their missionary impulse is not being satisfied

Strategies aimed at the above include soft entry points like Alpha, more focus on hospitality, better liturgies, family-oriented activity and opportunities to reward the missionary impulse.

Alpha update:

Beth reviewed the appeal of Alpha and its aspect of “radical hospitality”. Beth said there had been a pilot and two sessions at which point they went to Zoom meetings. Alpha is hoping to start another session in January or February and is looking for facilitators for future events. Meghan Amend and Mickie Gordon have blessedly volunteered to facilitate the winter sessions.

### **Future Topics**

December PPC options: The meeting will take place, most likely via Zoom, on December 17th. The format is undecided.

### **Closing Prayer**

Father Joe prayed for the Lord to guide us through the rebuilding process, and how to make Assumption more welcoming through imagery, human kindness, and the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.