

PPC Agenda 17 December 2020 (6:30pm-8:00pm) (ZOOM)

Attendees

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

Opening Prayer

Don prefaced his prayer by discussing the need to identify sources of strength, particularly in troubled times, so as to fight off despair. He offered St. Joseph as a paragon of such strength, and that his intercession could give comfort to those feeling beat down by the unrelenting challenges of life in the Covid era. Don pointed out that Joseph, in his manifold roles as father, protector, moral guide and carpenter, was ideally poised as a source of inspiration to the faithful. Don's prayer asked for God's guidance to help us better reflect His love in our actions towards God and our neighbors.

Minutes Review

No objections

Book (Caste) discussion

The discussion centered on Part 2 of the book, which examined in gruesome detail the evolution of a race-based social hierarchy in America that was emulated by the Nazis as they developed a program for Jewish disenfranchisement and, ultimately, the Final Solution.

Part 3 will be discussed in January

Old Business

- Review of Christmas plans:
Father Joe noted that the Christmas masses were filling up and expressed the need to manage expectations for those planning to attend the more popular Christmas masses. Father said he would be using the bulletin and other email to ensure people were aware of the need to reserve and come early.
- Per Father Joe, the fogging machine is working well.

- **Art update:**

The discussion about revising the statuary or other art forms in Assumption was lengthy with only some resolution:

- After looking at pictures of the existing Stations of the Cross, the Council generally agreed that replacing them would be too costly, jarring, and deleterious to the existing and historical artistry of Assumption.
- Father Joe reviewed the parishioner's letter (see previous minutes) in more detail, and it was clearer that the parishioner was advocating a process that would require substantive artistic review and resources not currently at Assumption's disposal.
- Father Joe offered that the existing Seven Sorrows of Mary on the church walls could be modified or augmented with less impact to the overall church. Other members of the council agreed that this should be considered.
- Don noted that we should be clear on the objectives of any such renovation, i.e. is this purely for diversity purposes or are we also trying to provide additional spiritual nutrition through these modifications.
- Regarding additional statuary, Don and Paul felt it best to table the idea of additional statuary until we have a more complete picture of options and their impacts.

Father Joe concluded the discussion by saying we would reconvene in January with the issues of the Stations off the table.

New Business

- The Italian dinner netted almost \$21,000 and was considered a success. Rose noted that they were hoping have a dinner at Maggiano's next November.
- There will be no pizza party or retreat this year.
- Beth noted that the virtual Advent calendar was on the website, that the parish Instagram page was operational, and that FaceBook was loading everyday.

Future Topics

Fr. Joe said that Assumption's 1950-era pews need renewing. Don noted that a lot of work needed to be done and Father Joe said that a full restoration would be about \$90,000. More discussion will follow.

Closing Prayer

Father Joe prayed that our insufficient efforts to depict the miraculous be mercifully viewed as our imperfect reflection of His perfect love and that God would bless our Christmas celebration.

The next PPC will be on January 21.