

PPC Minutes 21 January 2021 (6:30pm-8:00pm) (Zoom)

Attendees

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

Opening Prayer

David's prayer was a reflection on saints and healing, particularly as illuminated by St. Josephine Bakhita. St. Josephine was sold into slavery in her youth, endured a series of horrors, and by a circuitous route was taken in by the Canossian Sisters in Venice and eventually declared free. Wounded as she was, St. Josephine forgave her oppressors as part of a healing process rooted in Christian salvation. David concluded with a synopsis of Henri Nouwen's Characteristics of a Wounded Healer.

Minutes Review

No objections

Book (Caste) discussion

Part 3 of the book dealt with the author's proposition that caste is supported by eight pillars; Divine will, Heritability, Endogamy, Purity and pollution, Occupational hierarchy, Dehumanization and stigma, Terror and cruelty, and Inherent superiority and inferiority. Much of the discussion focused on the misappropriation of Christian teaching by those seeking to establish and preserve the caste system.

Old Business

- Easter preparations:

Predicated on the largely successful Christmas services, Fr. Joe was optimistic that Easter services appeared on track, and will have a two-week window for making reservations, vice the month-long window used at Christmas. Regarding Ash Wednesday (the

- most attended yearly event), Fr. noted that ashes would be sprinkled over the head, vice on the forehead, and said he would provide this info to the parish in advance of Ash Wednesday. Fr. Joe also said there will be palms this year on Palm Sunday.
- Church Art:

Beth gave a brief recap of the state of play regarding the Assumption statuary. Fr. Joe said we should probably do four; St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Oscar Romero, and Bl. Stanley Rother. Fr. Joe also noted aspects of those saintly devotions that resonated with other current papal themes, such as St. Kateri being the patron saint of ecology. Per Fr. Joe, a parishioner was willing to donate funds as a gift for Fr. David Brown, who was at Assumption for almost 17 years beginning in 1998, and who had previously served as a pastor in Cabrini-Green. Fr. Joe observed that David Iaccino would need help with this project.

 - A brief discussion of the Seven Sorrows icons on the Assumption east wall followed, concluding that it was a more long range subject to be discussed in future meetings.
 - Renew my Church:

Fr. Joe said the way forward was still vague and that he would check back for further guidance in May. Fr. Joe ventured that the process would probably start over the summer, involving five members of each church and their pastor. A series of meetings would probably ensue to come up with plans that may or may not involve restructuring. Per Fr. Joe, the great unknown is what will happen to downtown as a result of the pandemic, particularly regarding how many people return to indoor events. Father also noted that the Renewal process in Chicago will inevitably move forward because it is financially driven, and those financial needs are unlikely to abate independent of what happens post-pandemic.

New Business

- Pews: A short discussion was held regarding replacing the pews with something more fitting the historical integrity of Assumption; the Fi-

nance Committee has several bids regarding restoration of the pews. With the Renew my Church unknowns still out there, Fr. Joe said Assumption is not currently in a good position to make decisions regarding pew replacement and that the issue would be taken up at a later date.

- PPC discernment discussion (The PPC needs to replace 3 members by Fall, and fill the spot vacated by Sarah): Beth reviewed what we've done in the past. David offered that an announcement in the Assumption bulletin and at the online mass was warranted. Fr. Joe didn't think the discernment process could be done on Zoom and thought it best to wait until summer.

Future Topics

Rose inquired about the likelihood of the diocese increasing the currently prescribed attendance levels.

Closing Prayer

In light of the issues raised in the Caste discussion Fr. Joe offered a prayer of repentance, mercy and forgiveness.