

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

March 11, 2020

Pastoral Council Meeting

Present: Msgr. Tim Keeney, Heidi Brown, Stephenie Draushak, Roxana Roblero, Janet Ferrance, Meg Borjarski, Jose Cuenca, Laure Taylor, Robert Chisholm, Michael Schaeber, Doug Campbell, and Pete Kashatus

Meeting opened with a night prayer.

Update on COVID-19-

Msgr. For now, the Bishop has issued Diocese wide updates on how to proceed: suspended chalice, no shaking or holding hands, and draining of fonts. We will be switching to hosts from substantial bread. For those who won't be attending mass, we will start recording the 5:30 p.m. Saturday mass to post on YouTube. This is one way to help our parish stay connected. He will announce this change at masses this weekend so that parents can avoid having their children filmed, if necessary. Will remind extraordinary ministers to wash their hands. Will be seeking a custodian to clean on Sundays for the next 4 weeks. St. Thomas leadership is meeting on Monday and will update Msgr. on Tuesday so that our parishes can have some uniformity. We will be watching the schools. If they close, we will decrease mass sizes and add more mass times. The Spanish community needs to be reminded that they should not be hugging, kissing, or shaking hands. They will need to start taking communion by hand, not orally. Heidi asked that if the weather is nice, is it possible to have mass outside? Msgr. Logistically, no. Our main method of communion of updates will be via email, the website, and FB pages.

If schools close, then Christian Formation will go online. As for the food pantry, Sheila is looking at doing home delivery, spacing chairs 6 feet apart, and individual time slots for picking food.

In the case that masses are suspended, (like in Italy), we will keep a bare-bones staff. Masses will still be recorded and posted. He is planning on assembling a team of eucharistic ministers to give communion. Individuals need to be healthy and VIRTUS trained. Msgr. will give special training on how to administer, for example, using gloves. The reason for this is to provide support for our community while facing an adverse situation. There is value in the church staying faithful. He doesn't want our parishioners to get into the habit of not coming to mass, which can be hard to break. If Msgr. starts doing home visits, other pastoral work would cease.

As of now, we are unsure about Easter and the Triduum. Many nursing homes are closed, even to family but Msgr. and Karen are allowed to distribute communion and have mass. Msgr. is fearful that hospitals will not allow anointing of the sick. He will stay in contact with the hospital. Other events have been cancelled, such as the Lenten fish fry. It is possible that Nehemiah Action will get cancelled.

Questions and comments-

Janet- Will the staff retreat be cancelled? Msgr. No but please do not come if you are sick or are health compromised. Chip is looking at streaming the retreat. If you are planning on not coming, please call before Friday because we are having it catered.

Everyone seemed to be in agreement that they were glad that there was a plan of action for the worst-case scenario.

Heidi- Promoted Alan Ames, a powerful speaker who will be coming to Charlottesville, VA, November 5.

Subcommittee Updates-

Mission and Vision-

Doug- The group decided that it would be best to wait to meet until after this weekend.

Hopefully, everyone will be on the same page afterward. Msgr. The goal of this weekend is to guide us in a direction, not to create a new mission and vision statement.

Data and Research-

Janet- Looked at Secret Shopper and ME-25. They will give her group a starting point, but her group doesn't know what they are starting for. Would love to look at other parishes results for secret shopper. The ME-25 makes it hard to maintain anonymity (if done in pews). A group of volunteers can gather the data. Msgr. informed us of the process at St. Bede's, over 3,000 people were in attendance and over half responded, so it has the potential to be successful here. The data and research group felt no need to meet again until they pinpoint the direction that they want to pursue. Msgr. suggested that they look at some of the ME-25/secret shopper powerpoints to help find a direction. At St. Bede's the ME-25 helped them change their mission and vision statement and secret shopper helped them take a deeper look into what they should change/add (renovations). It helped them look at the deficits that a visitor/seeker would notice and the obstacles that were in the way of helping them join the church. As for the ME-25, it focused on nourishing the roots of the church, that the fruit would follow. Doug- Identifying the need with data can help shape the mission and vision statement.

English and Spanish Unity-

Msgr. Praise from Msgr. for the Hispanic Celebration this weekend, as it helped facilitate unity.

He especially enjoyed the video. It was a great experience and it was nice to have the English speakers try some new foods, etc. Roxana- Shared some ideas that would help bring the two groups together. For example, dinner buddies at the end of the school year celebration. Msgr.

Would like to see more mingling at IMPACT meetings. Instead of separating the two groups for discussion, they could be more bilingual. This way, each group can hear each other's opinions.

However, sometimes there is a language barrier that prevents discussion. Each group could look into language classes, for example, ESOL is provided at Incarnation and Spanish classes are provided at PVCC for the elderly. Right now, Sheila is looking into setting up a workshop on unity, Msgr. would like for that to be extended to the pastoral council and the Hispanic community to help unify. He also pointed out that the English community should not be taking a paternal stance towards the Hispanic community, that instead, they have something to teach us and offer us...

Hospitality-

Msgr. Jose Cuenca is working with Cindy Campbell to facilitate the next welcome dinner. He is doing this for diaconal work but is looking to expand the welcome dinners into a welcome ministry. He will be asking people to join this ministry, as Msgr. would like to have 4 welcome dinners a year. Many agreed that most people are more engaged in the community when they have been welcomed and have a sponsor. It might help to expand this same sort of welcome to parents of newly baptized children. Additionally, it might be helpful to have more than one sponsor and see some sort of follow up, perhaps via email, after these welcome dinners to continue to educate.

Laure- Our group was looking at the need to welcome while also taking into consideration the need to nourish the people who are already here. She gave an example of everyone always trying to fix their weaknesses; however, this energy should be focused on our strengths. These strengths can help us be extremely successful, if utilized. Another example was given about an entryway that needed improvements, but they couldn't afford to pay gardeners and etc., so all they did was water the grass that was already there, and it flourished. So how do we feed what is here? That's how parishes grow. She expressed some concerns about the fast-approaching Holy Week, and that some changes might not be that welcoming. Msgr. explained that a lot of these changes are *necessary* because our church was not following the USCCB standards. Right now, with everything happening with the coronavirus, our Holy Week will see some changes that wouldn't usually happen besides out of a need for cleanliness. For example, the foot washing will be reduced to 12 people and there will be no kissing or touching of the cross during veneration. As for other changes, like the ones to the readings, are being modified so that they follow the correct standards. We can anticipate more incorporation of Spanish in the readings and music as well. To help with the transition of these changes, Tom Noble will be giving three separate talks on the Triduum to help educate our parish. These talks will be taped so that they can be shared online.