

St. Cronan Parish Council  
February 3, 2021  
Minutes

**Present:** Melanie Ernst, Andrew Gondzur, John Gozdziwski, Diane Gozdziwski, Helen Heilich, Shelly Kurtz, Christine Lakey, Justin Lorenz, Erin O’Connell, Fr. Jack Schuler, Andrew Viragh, Mary Ward, Al Sprehe (in the beginning)

**Absent:** Nick Ambrose, Sr. Clare Bass, David Gaillardetz,

Helen Heilich said the opening prayer.

**December Minutes:** Justin put forward the motion to approve the Minutes and Christine seconds the motion. Minutes were approved.

### **Discussion around forming goals to become an anti-racist parish**

Al Sprehe gave an update on the work he has been doing with the Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative as well as the social justice committee of St. Cronan. The Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative was formed in 2017 by 8 parishes of which 4 were predominantly Black parishes and 4 were predominantly white parishes. They put together a statement of purpose. St. Cronan along with other parishes endorsed that statement. The work of CRJC has also included vigils and conferences and is ongoing. For more information, please refer to their website (<https://www.catholicracialjusticestl.org/>). Al Sprehe mentions that the social justice committee from St. Cronan is holding Black Lives Matter vigils every Friday night and he brought up the idea of financial reparations. However, this is just an idea.

Melanie asked what work of the CRJC with parishes entails. They provide the statement of purpose, support with writing your own statement and further resources. Andrew V. asked about the first parishes that joined originally. He further asked if there was a minimum of requirements a parish must fulfill to join the collaborative. There are none. He also inquired about how the collaborative is sustaining itself. Al mentions that there is no support from the Archdiocese and that the collaborative is mostly organized by individual volunteers.

We then moved away from that and towards the question on how we want to move forward. Fr. Jack mentioned that he has \$500 in discretionary funds and suggested that we can use that money to hire a professional to help us define our current situation and our plans moving forward. Andrew V. made the motion to contact Ashwini Kherdekar to schedule a 60-90 min meeting with the PC to have a first discussion about where we want to go. Shelly seconded the motion and it is then approved.

### **Parish Council Goals for 2021**

Justin goes over the draft he worked out.

3) Fr. Jack suggested the PC to bring names of volunteers to his attention, maybe one person per month whose name will be brought up during PC meetings. Diane G. mentioned that she wants to contact that person first before publicly (via live streamed/recorded masses) saying their name. Andrew V. mentioned that having a short description of that person’s work would be very helpful too.

6) Andrew V. mentioned that participation could be more broadly than just going to the pride events. The PC debated about phrasing it as “participating in events not traditionally sponsored by Catholics”.

Justin L. suggested to combine goal 6 and 7 but Helen H. added that there is value in having them separate. Justin L. will include the suggested changes.

### **SVdP van update**

There was a \$10,000 donation and the total donations are around \$30,000. There are conversations with car companies like enterprise etc. for maybe getting a good deal. Mary W. mentioned that Dorothy Strathman Lucey will be featured on Channel 5's "You Make a Difference" this Sunday, Feb 7, at 10 pm.

### **Parish Council Meeting Jobs**

Please sign up for jobs!

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13hcrDHSMZhN0LK6vuLi1my70CKJ90dBUcSeb48tD454/edit>

### **New Business**

#### **COVID update**

Fr. Jack is in contact with the health task force which will meet and discuss the next steps. There will be continuing Sunday and weekly (Monday, Wednesday) masses and there will be an Ash Wednesday mass at 9 am. For this, there is a survey currently to gauge interest amongst parishioners.

#### **Fund Raising**

Helen H. reported that the fundraising committee is planning on having a virtual bingo. She raised several questions: 1) Are parishioners tech affine enough to participate in such an event. 2) Should we include people outside the parish? 3) What should the prizes be? Fr. Jack is confident that the parishioners will be able to participate. Mary W., Melanie E., Andrew G. and Diane G. offered their zoom accounts. Andrew V. asked how the success is measured -what is the fundraising goal? Helen H. mentioned that this is more of a smaller event but that she is confident that we can make around \$1000 through donations for prizes. Andrew V. proposed that we might need a caller that entertains also. Diane G. suggested that Joe Moramarco could be a good person for that job.

#### **Housing Units**

Fr. Jack reported that there are new housing units being built in the Grove neighborhood, but that Matt Ampleman said that there is nothing really, we can do. However, the Drury hotel will not be built.

### **New Business**

#### **Fr. Jack's Report**

There are several new people that joined the parish. Fr. Jack suggested that we might want to have a zoom welcome meeting with them. Christine L. asked to get the names so that the hospitality group can reach out to them. Fr. Jack also mentioned the petition for Josh Hawley to lose designation of pro-life.

The donation statements for tax purposes were mailed out.

### **Diane's Report**

Adult Faith formation and the small groups are up and running. There are over 50 people signed up. All groups meet within the next two weeks. Diane also reached out to the people that filled out the survey but did not join the group. The small groups will be promoted in the Facebook group and on the website.

Diane also shared the liturgy symbol of lent which will be the Jacaronda Tree. She further mentions that the food pantry will have a vaccination registration set up and that the parish will get a second zoom account to hers for Fr. Jack.

### **Mary's Report**

The developed Facebook group is up and running and is being used by its 58 members frequently. Regarding the facilities there is water damage on the ceiling around the choir area. Rooftech will come on Friday to assess the damage.

### **Task Keeper Report (Erin O.)**

Andrew G. led the Closing Prayer