

St. Cronan Parish Council

Minutes

November 3, 2021 @ 7pm

Secretary: Diane G

Task-Keeper: Clare

Those present: Melanie Ernst, Fr. Jack, John Gozdziński, Justin Lorenz, Shelly Kurtz, Helen Heilich, Erin O'Connell, Christine Lakey, Clare Bass, David Gaillardetz

Those absent: Nick Ambrose, Andrew Gondzur, Andrew Viraugh
Guests: Marcia Koester, Jennifer Hoffman, Chabanel Mathison

Dyad Check-Ins, Intro for Visitors Marcia Koester & Jennifer Hoffman (7-7:15)

Melanie welcomed our guests, Marcia and Jennifer, who are considering joining Parish Council. Asked them to listen and not participate. Marcia and Jennifer introduced themselves.

Opening Prayer (Melanie)

Minutes from Oct 2021 PC meeting – review and vote to approve, change: Drury should have been a hotel, not residential. Minutes approved as changed.

Old Business (7:20-7:55)

All Things New – Archdiocesan Strategic Plan (Fr. Jack, Melanie, Sr. Chabanel)

Fr. Jack: The process has been going on for a bit. Most has been focused on different groups and organizations. There are a lot of questions. The Pope has called a synod on synods. He wants to hear from people on faith and the life of the Church. In St. Louis we are focusing on the plan: “All Things New.” The plan will go until Pentecost of 2023. In the interim, there will be listening sessions and focuses on parishes.

The Pope has 3 stages:

- Encounter – we need to improve this,
- Listen – hierarchy have not been very good listeners,
- Discern – if you encounter and listen, then things can't stay the same.

Sr. Chabanel: Summarized the way the planning process is going to unfold. The Archdiocese doesn't want to continue as we are, just falling apart gradually as priests become fewer. We are invited into a process to plan a new infrastructure that will be a clear path that will not allow things to happen by default. Themes: include issues that need to be addressed.

There is a professional group – The Catholic Institute – who has done this work in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and in Chicago, - they perform a study of infrastructure and data. Our step-by-step plan is a bit different. There is no outcome in place, and there will be regular bi-weekly communication -this is what we are told it will look like. The Process will begin with prayer to put the process in God's hands. It will Begin with a renewal of evangelization – to share richness of community – St. C would be a great training parish – Fr. Jack proposed that we meet with head of evangelization.

When these pieces are in place – there will be a study of archdiocesan infrastructure.

Parish self-study – hard and soft data submitted to the archdiocese, the planning group will come up with a plan for a new infrastructure that will affect every parish.

Parishes will respond.

Listening phase – 400 listening sessions – gather input, take it back, re-work draft plan
Archbishop will roll out final plan on Pentecost of 2023, and we will have 6 months (Jan. 2024) to implement in Parishes.

Fr. Jack had a subsequent meeting – what Chabanel said is not what head of evangelization said – his idea of evangelization is conversion – Fr. Jack not comfortable with that.

Melanie: made a point at the meeting that St. Cronan was there – Melanie asked how Archbishop sees his role in the process? He wants to refer to a speech that the Archbishop is sometimes leader of his flock, sometimes with them, sometimes behind to push them a little.

Questions/concerns:

- Is this a pre-determined outcome?– Chabanel answered this: All parishes will be affected in some way – not just parish closures
- Will it count coins and people or will idea of service enter in? Answer: The way we collect the soft data will be very significant

We need to appoint 5 people to be representatives of St. Cronan:

Sr. Chabanel left meeting. Marcia and Jennifer – put in breakout room.

Melanie shared list of people: *List is attached with these Minutes. The list was discussed.

Sr. Chabanel will be the point person. We would like to invite 1 youth; 1 with ministerial or theological background (David Gaillardetz, Bob Hoffman, Teresa Sullivan, Al Sprehe, Kathleen Stock); 1 LGBTQ+ person (Helen, Sandy, Andrew, David). We will select 7, 5 will be designated and asked to accept, 2 will be back-ups.

What is commitment? There is no involvement until spring. The designates will take part in a 3-part webinar series. They will meet with the pastor – May-June, Sept-February. There will be sessions with regional groups – August-September, 2022, February-March, 2023.

Chabanel's role is to take information from the 5 to the Archdiocese. She is an administrative facilitator.

Justin, David, Christine and Melanie determine the number of votes, then Melanie will put out a poll for Parish Council Members to indicate their preferences.

Fundraising Committee Update (Helen) – we will continue to fundraise – poinsettias, and baseball raffle in baseball season – there could be other ideas with new fundraising chair. Helen will take care of those two. Nick has not responded to Melanie's email. Someone else could also take over fundraising. Helen will do the poinsettias and baseball raffle with no objections from Council

Parish Council Recruitment Status (Christine) – we had 2 guests at this meeting: Jennifer Hoffman and Marcia Koester. Donna Z would love to serve, Donna would be in the group of candidates. We usually accept whoever comes forward – she is waiting to hear from us. They would start in January at the January retreat. Any other names? Mariah Byrnes – would be a good candidate (Justin suggested and will ask her) – we've had a full council of 12 – 4 are leaving. What are our next steps?

Letter to the Archbishop (Justin) we sent the letter this past week. Introducing St. Cronan as an inclusive parish, inviting him to come to us. We should expect a response at some point. Do we want to read the letter? Let's wait to hear from him – then read our letter and his response to parish members. We will also publish it.

Anti-Bias Anti-Racism (ABAR) Status (Subcommittee) – Andrew V isn't here to report

Volunteers to Lift Up (Clare) – This Sunday there will be a big group - 18-20 people who helped with the voter registration

New Business (7:55-8:00)

Feedback on Memorial Celebration Ceremony (Diane) Families were very appreciative and liked the ceremony. The basket gave privacy and the general prayer was respectful. Christine would prefer to have each person state the name and light a candle, not just those whose memorial was at St. Cronan. She liked the previous ritual.

Possible sponsorship of LGBTQAI Exhibit (Andrew) Fr. Jack is working with Charlie Brennan – Andrew is point person for us, but it has been thrown into a huge committee – Andrew will go to meeting – he is looking into Cortex – they are amenable – we will not have any cost. History of LGTQ group in Kansas City.

Fr. Jack's Report (8:00-8:05)

Possible meeting with the Archdiocesan Director of Evangelization – very disappointed. Fr. Jack would like to invite him out here, but is waiting because he got Covid. Fr. Jack would like to invite him and have him talk to us – we are unique and seeking to be inclusive – experience the Christ that is within the people, not to convert them, instead of saying we've got it and we'll give it to you. There is a misinterpretation of the definition of "seeking to convert" - in Director of Evangelization's talk. There is a lot of transformation going on at St. Cronan

Possible meeting with Representative Bosley – let her know that we exist and what she is planning to do – noon on Monday – pre-meeting to talk about it.

Diane's Report (8:05-8:10): We will celebrate Racial Justice Sunday on November 7. **Racial Equity Coalition** – The Archdiocese is no longer condoning this group. We will be using the statement on Racism that we signed a few years ago and the Pledge this weekend.

Mary's Report (8:10-8:15)

Parish Center Roof: All was approved by insurance as part of the Church roof claim. We have elected to add the following items:

- Painting of gutter and downspouts - \$1700 ish
- Masonry sealant on top of the front parapet \$1700 ish
- Easy-Lock gutter system \$1200 ish

Work should begin the week of November 15

Parish Center HVAC: We have opted to go with Crestside Heating and Cooling for the work on the HVAC in the Parish Center. We will replace only the furnaces, as the A/C is running fine. Cost: \$8200. The two roof-top units need repair and Crestside will handle this as well. Work will take place on Friday, Nov. 5.

Church Sound System: We have contracted with CI Select. They will re0set our entire sound board, train staff, and mark the board with the correct settings. They

will supply a new ambo microphone and microphone mount. We will get an adaptor for use with cell phones to help with our sound issues when posting Mass videos. Wish List: Mary shared the list. It will be prioritized and presented to the parish. A bike rack will be added to the list. Question about a free library: there is one on Vista, so since there is one in the neighborhood we won't duplicate.

Task-Keeper Report (Clare)

- David, Melanie and Christine will create the poll for selecting 5 candidates and to back-ups.
- All invite people to be on Parish Council
- Mary will publish the wish list – staff will try to get prices
- Justine will follow up with ABAR

There will be no Christmas party in December

The retreat will take place in January

We need to consider a fund-raising person at the January Retreat

Hospitality Committee – since Christine will no longer be on council, should someone take this on, or should Christine do it and report to council? We will get someone on Council to partner with Christine.

Thank you – Melanie and Justin will discuss proper way to thank Christine, Helen, David G. and Andrew G. for serving. David G. will stay on the council
Helen will raffle the Wine basket donated by Mary.

Closing Prayer (Shelly)

***Next Meeting: Wed., Dec 1st, 2021 @ 7pm. Secretary = Andrew V;
Opening Prayer = Shelly; Closing Prayer = Nick; Task-Keeper = Diane***