

Faith Formation Commission Notes: April 4, 2022

**Due to Covid this meeting took place via video conference*

Present: Cass Hartnett, Jerry Waterhouse, Mike Maggart, Lunette Birrenkott, Mary Gorman

Absent: Allison Drago, Tom O'Laughlin

Meeting began at 6:20 due to technical difficulties. Mary Gorman opened with a prayer poem by Jan Richardson

Minutes from March meeting were reviewed and approved

Main Topic of the night was the future of Religious Education due to the resignation of Kristen Ellingson from the staff. She is leaving for another job and we wish her only the BEST.

Kristen was applauded for the amazing job she has done and all she has taken on.

Fr. Elias, Luis & others (including this commission) have met to discuss what Religious Ed may look like moving forward

-Thoughts are of hiring a part-time staff person to organize and work with an all volunteer group to teach/facilitate religious ed for K-12

-Luis will help staff the effort to get a volunteer network

-The hope would be for 2-3 certified catechists.

DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS FOLLOWED

-History of Religious Ed at St Leo

Classes in between Sunday morning masses

Dismissal of children during homily (CLOW)

Using Liturgy of the Word

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

-is this a function of the Faith Formation Commission ?

-challenges of moving to an all volunteer basis

how would recruitment of volunteers look ?

present volunteer OPPORTUNITY in an enthusiastic manner

-could the Commission see a job description for this part time position (currently there is no job description for this new role) ?

-what are the numbers & ages/grades of children/young adults currently involved ?

-where are the children from ?

-what are the goals of religious ed ?

-what is the middle & high school program like- - confirmation preparation only?

keeping the spirit alive in that age group ?

what is the possibility of getting the Youth Migrant Project going again ?

-Need to keep in mind that this is not a typical neighborhood suburban church- parishioners come from many zip codes

-possibility of expecting parents of children in program to volunteer a certain amount of time or at least having that understanding

- many area religious ed programs have a fee
- Concern expressed during Synod sessions of attracting young families
- what needs to happen immediately (not sure of the answer to this)
- assume this needs to get organized & volunteers recruited by June so as to be ready to go in the fall
- In order to have further discussion we need an understanding of what this may look like
- May benefit from a meeting with Fr Elias & Luis
- Main thing is to support Fr Elias & Luis as this moves forward- especially in the recruitment of volunteers

FURTHER DISCUSSION TABLED TO ADDRESS OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

UPCOMING BOOK STUDY

- Every Thursday in May
- Discussed whether it should move to ZOOM format as it puts pressure on a staff member to be available to open and close the Bix
- Cass to check with Tom to see if he was planning on attending the Book Study and thus could open/close the Bix

PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

- fund raiser concert for the Afghan family in early May
- some type of fund raiser for the Food Connection end of May
- Social Justice Commission is talking about coming up with some type of political action process
- April 30th there will be a Commission chair gathering to try and bring some cohesiveness and focus to the direction St Leo is headed
- Parish Council elections will be upcoming
- Approximately 200 parishioners have attended the Synodal meetings
- looking for a music coordinator
- talk of joining the Food Connection and E-services so as to have wrap around services available

NEXT MEETING

May 2nd, 6 PM (this will be our last working meeting for the year)

Meeting ended approximately 7:30 with the Our Father

Respectfully Submitted

Lunette Birrenkott

April Liturgy Commission meeting, Tuesday, April 5 6:30PM

Meeting via Zoom

Attendance Maureen M, Fr. Elias, Connie R. (via phone) Adrianna J., Mary Anne T. Jeffrey G.

Absent: Jim DeFoe and Heather M & Jesse P

Opening Prayer & Reflection was led by Teresa L.

This was time to pause and ponder with some sharing: How is your Lenten journey going?

What has nourished you in this desert time? Where have you experienced grace and blessing?

March minutes were reviewed with name spelling correction. And Michael Hall contributed to the planning of Black History Month.

Fr. Elias and Jeffrey G. provided updates from the Pastoral Council. The main items were the last of Synod Listening sessions will be completed in April. There has and is great involvement and out-pouring of generosity for the project of St. Leo's adoption of Afghan family. Election for Commission members is being organized.

Action items from March meeting:

There was an update and discussion on the purpose, need and organization of the Kiosks in the gathering space. Each Commission will be responsible refresh their Kiosk/communication board space update and maintain the information. Commission chairs can connect with Luis Blanco-Doring who will be the point of contact for communication. Jesse Paez is interested in helping to enhance these communication boards.

Request to consider Easter Egg Hunt was discussed since last meeting. The plan for this outside for the children seemed to have some obstacles. So a variation of "hunting for Easter eggs" will be "handing out of Easter eggs" from Frs. Xavier on Easter Sunday AM.

There was a Holy Week planning report out with and discussion items

Adriana reported out in her role as the Master of Ceremonies, that people were busily working. No youth would be available to help out with the Palm Sunday procession. Father Fuchs will be presiding with Father Xavier for the Palm/Passion Sunday liturgy. This year as we have been moving out of the COVID-19 restrictions we are celebrating being able to actively reincorporate more congregational involvement in our Triduum liturgies. Recruitment for music ministry has been positive as they give much time with music practices. We are finalizing plans and logistics for the Foot Washing on Holy Thursday. Good Friday we will begin with a Tribute to Mary and Sue Hudecek will be giving reflection on the theme of Mother Mary and her intimate experience in remaining with her Son in his suffering and death. The parishioners will participate In the Veneration of the Cross as the cross will be respectfully passed through the church during the ritual. Easter Vigil -the Paschal Candle is all finished and beautifully and skillfully crafted by Rick S., all will be invited to gather for the Blessing of the Fire outside, the RCIA are completing their preparation for reception of sacraments at the Easter Vigil, and work is happening on many other aspects of the vigil.

Arts and environment are working hard to create beauty and richness with simplicity to enhance the worship space.

Live Stations of the Cross will be happening April 8 at 7pm. A number of volunteers will present the Stations using an adapted version from Catholic Relief Services. The Stations will also be live-streamed.

Father Elias presented one important item that associated with our Arts and Environment for the church. One main element of Easter for our environment are the use of banners. (Banners and other special signs are also hung at Christmas, Easter and Pentecost - the stained glass flames). This process is labor intensive: heavy pews need to be moved, a lift is rented and stored for a short time, and staff members who are paid to do their specialized ministry have been using work time to do this work. Father Elias asked that we need to have a plan that is more manageable and less labor intensive. He invited with Arts and Environment and Liturgy Commission to come up with a creative design that would enhance our worship space during these liturgical seasons. Also, members are encouraged to seek out ideas from the faith community. Ideas and other options will be discussed for future planning.

This other agenda items were presented for consideration and ideas.

- Easter Season- how do we sustain being a Resurrection people? Mystagogy -Period of the Post-BaptismalCatechesis. This period continues at least until Pentecost
- Youth Mass with Bellarmine Community on April 24 at the 5PM Mass
- The topic was raised of how to honor Earth Day- To Collaborate in the Care of our Common Home—from encyclical *Laudato Si`*. *Rick S. may have plants this year for distribution*
- Ascension (Thursday) May 26 Mass time (to be finalized)
- Pentecost - June 5 Mass 9:30 AM (to be finalized)

Fr. Elias met with Conrado J. to discuss future planning regarding Filipino mass and what would this be like to possibly integrate into weekend Masses. Would it be a Filipino Mass once a month? What are the thoughts and feelings about this? One member stated they would need to pray and reflect on it before giving their opinion. What is the intent? Be mindful and careful how we go about this. How do we honor, celebrate and integrate culture in our liturgy as a community at St. Leo? Families bring food of their culture for a gathering?

Fr. Elias provided update with the Liturgist & Music Position. Fr. Elias met with Anna DeFoe. She graciously offered to help out if needed possibly until the end of the year. There is work on posting a part- time position.

Bread- making has been a tradition a St. Leo. People have liked it. People have missed it. There needs to be a clear plan on the who, what, when, how, where for this bread-making ministry to be resurrected in our liturgy. More to come. Keep your eyes open for upcoming communication in the bulletin welcoming interested bread-bakers.

Closing prayer-blessing

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 4, 2022 6:30 pm (May's date change to accommodate member attendance)

Opening prayer: Maureen M.

The facilities commission met at 5:30 on April 13. It was attended by George Rodkey, Pat Keely, Nancy Maggart, Keith Kragelund, and Mary Ann Seiwerath

Time was spent prioritizing improvement projects and estimating costs.

- 1) The rectory garden fence and parking lot regrade with church drainage is in process with an estimated cost of \$100-\$110,000. There is \$125,000 in the building fund with \$88,000 committed to the regrade.
- 2) The church lighting in the narthex has a safety issue coupled with consideration of improving the affect (arts and environment commission) in this hospitality area. A suggestion was made to ask people to pledge for their family/group half of the cost of the \$3000 for each of about 20 to 24 lights.
- 3) Sound system improvements to the church would be at a cost of about \$5000 for the floor rewiring.
- 4) The Church roof replacement is estimated at about \$60,000 and these funds can be borrowed from the archdiocese.
- 5) Improvements to the rectory heating is estimated at \$20,000.
- 6) The rectory roof needs repairs to make it last approximately another two years.

The Food connection entry door replacement and the Food connection awning (Grant requires estimates and work contracted by specific date) seem to have countywide possibilities for funding rather than from the parish.

The lack of a current chair for the facilities commission seems to be put on hold until there is a parish ministry fair.

Stewardship and Pastoral Care commissions did not meet.

Food Connection commission did not meet and working on gas fundraiser (van-art).

Social Justice, no minutes this month