**Saint Michael Catholic Church /Mount Airy, Maryland**

**Pastoral Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:00 to 8:30 PM**

**via Zoom**: Father Mike, Donna Binney, Deacon Cliff Britton, Tricia Buckman, Karen Courtney, Mike & Melissa Gallagher, Linda Gasch, Bill Hammett, Dave James, Alyssa Smith, Chuck Young

**Opening Prayer:** led by Chuck Young

**Information Sharing**

1. Pastor’s Report shared via email.
   * Be Missionary Disciples Pastorate Planning –
   * Faithful Departed – funeral this Saturday
   * Joyful in Hope (Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries)
     1. Goal is slightly reduced for St. Michael this year due to economic situation and COVID
   * Behold the Lamb of God
     1. Ash Wednesday is February 17
     2. Word Among Us is available for safe distribution
   * Central Services – Archdiocese is facing chronic challenge with costs of operations; Task force recommended some downsizing at Central Services.
   * Continued Meetings virtually
     1. Knights of Columbus
     2. AA
     3. Scout Troop 428
2. Staff Report shared via email including these topics:
   * Annual statements were mailed out.
   * Sacramental Preparations included First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA.
   * Adult Formation included Catechist formation; Man Alive and Walking with Purpose
   * Family Ministry & Pastoral Outreach: preschool enrollment, Divorce care continuing, Pastoral outreach for young moms, Mom’s book study & Stephen Ministry training to start in February
   * Youth & Young Adult continues virtually; plans for a study hall; Young Adult mass with lunch was postponed due to weather.
   * Attendance has dropped slightly for in person masses.
   * Online giving is about 46% of offertory
   * SBA PPP Loan – awaiting status of application
   * Facilities: regular cleaning, disinfectant and bio protection. We continue to work on repair services to the rectory and the church building
   * Site Plan Development update included
3. New Business
   * “Test Run” of the Idea Submission with two samples
   * Need submitter’s phone number added to form so contact can be made regarding receipt of the idea

Submission A:

* + Idea submitted by Tricia Buckman: suggestion for welcoming by adding a sign, verse [“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”] or our new mission statement on the wall behind the “counter” that is seen when you first walk in to the narthex
    1. Suggestion: use removable/repositionable adhesive vinyl
    2. Expense: can be done with home crafting equipment or purchased from a vendor; Tricia is willing to install the first message.
    3. Council Discussion:
       1. Past comments regarding clutter, beauty & messaging
       2. What group is responsible for messaging?
       3. Beautification of Narthex – is there a parish decoration committee?
       4. Do we have any lettering like that elsewhere on the campus?
       5. Signage could provide a welcome when a personal greeter or usher is not present and during non mass times.
       6. Do we also need to consider other decluttering efforts?
       7. Council recommendation: Consensus to move this idea forward.
          1. Process to refine and approve details of the signage
          2. Request for additional options to be submitted and routed through before final decision on what wording will be displayed.

Submission B

* + Idea submitted by Linda Gasch: Year of the Eucharist
    1. Suggestion: spend this year educating the parishioners of the Eucharist.
    2. Deacon Cliff shared information from the Archdiocese regarding calendar items that correlate and support this. One year from Corpus Christi to Corpus Christi. (June 2021 to June 2022)
    3. Suggestion to assemble a group of people to assist Pastoral Team with a cohesive approach for teaching.
       1. Allows us to incorporate varying groups and religious education
       2. Should include Ted as Pastoral Assistant or Pat as Director of Liturgy
    4. Council Discussion
       1. Educational opportunity for parish to learn more about our faith
       2. Seems to be a need based on some experience with religious education students.
       3. Allows us to go back to the basics and also review why we do what we do
       4. Catholic Review had an article mentioning that many do not realize or agree that the Eucharist is the Body of Christ.
       5. What liturgical area or committee takes “care of this?”
       6. 4-month timeline for planning
       7. Council Recommendation: Consensus that formation of a committee for Year of the Eucharist is created.
          1. Representation suggestion – tap into the established groups and organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, Man Alive.
          2. Resources frequently available from USCCB when a yearlong celebration is planned.
  + Concepts coming out of the Rebuilt Program
    1. Three main areas were: Music, Message, Ministers
    2. Reviewed list of ideas that were implemented from Rebuilt
    3. Other items were carried over to PSG?
    4. What are the remaining items that were not moved forward? Those items can be brought forward to the Pastoral Council.

1. Old Business
   * Volunteer Coordinator Discussion
     1. Volunteer Need Database created with examples;
     2. Database needs to be populated
     3. Pastoral Council to consider how to expand volunteer base, consider what areas need to be represented with volunteers.
        1. Started with need for Mission leads for parish
        2. Will look at this list next meeting

**Closing Prayer** led by Father Mike