**Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting**

**December 7, 2020**

Present: Fr, Cyrus (Pastor), , via Zoom, Joe Malaterra (Parish Council Chair), Thomas Devine, Mori Han-Lemus, Michelle Hopson, John LoRusso, Tom Bonaventura, Catherine Romano, in person. Bill Konlers, (Deacon), Michael O’Loughlin, Michelle Harding, Juany Fumai, via Zoom

Absent: Gracemary Avitabile

**-** Joe Malaterra: opened the meeting.

**-** Deacon Bill**:** lead us in prayer.

**-** The minutes from the October meeting were accepted by Michele Harding and seconded by John LaRusso

**-** Tom Bonaventura and Michelle Hopson went over the parish census in more detail and will present a Power Point presentation to the council at the next meeting as well to the parish.

**-** Fr. Cyrus said we had to return to Phase 2 for the parish due to the uptick in Covid 19. We now are back to 50% capacity. All CDC guidelines remain in place. All doors are designated for entrance and exit only.

- Fr. Cyrus spoke of Bishop Caggiano’s plan to implement *The Year of the Eucharist and the Bible* in our diocese, He wants parishioners to be more centered on the Eucharist in their lives. We at Assumption have already implemented part of that by moving the Tabernacle to the center of the church. As we go forward we will be offering an increase for times of Adoration.

- Father also told us that the Annual Catholic Appeal has ended for this year. We raised $112,519, a 67.88% of $165,750 goal. The ACA for 2021 will resume beginning Lent and our goal will be $146,300.

- Fr Cyrus said in five years it will be 150th years since our parish was established, and he wants to have a substantial celebration. A committee will be formed to create and carry out plans. Bill Macnamara, who represents the Knights of Columbus in our parish said that they would be there to help.

- Michael O’Loughlin, Financial Council Chair said on line giving is going well but we could do better by more advertising about it. The goal is to get more parishioners to use it especially during this time of Covid.

- Mori Hahn said she experienced a “Pocket Change Collection” designated for a cause, in which every week parishioners drop their pocket change in a receptacle when they come to church. This is an addition to their weekly giving.

**-** Cathy Romano reported on the four Confirmations held on October 28 and 30th with two sacraments celebrated on each day. This year the Rite was celebrated outside of Mass. Fr Cyrus celebrated on the 28th and Bishop Caggiano celebrated on the 30th.

At our DRE/CRE diocesan zoom meeting we were told that the age of Confirmation was under consideration for moving it to sixth grade. All council members thought that this was not a good idea. They felt that our young people should be hearing about Jesus as long as they can. Some even suggested we move it to high school.

Our current religious ed., program has 281 students, last year we had 305 registered students. We designed the program this year to be both at home learning and in person learning. Due to the recent uptick in the virus we have suspended in person classes and will revisit how we will proceed in 2021.

Cathy also presented information about our Advent Festival. We will have our second blessing of the crèche and tree lighting outside on December 13, 2020 after the 4:30pm Mass. We will also have a local food truck, providing the food. Outdoor heaters have been rented, which we will be put around the grounds. We have had wonderful sponsors and raised $2,600 to help with this event.

**-** Fr. Cyrus said the Christmas Mass schedule will be as follows: Christmas Eve - Two Masses at 4:00 pm, one will be in the church. One will be in the gym. The 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, and 11:00 pm evening masses, will be in the church. On Christmas Day Morning, the 8:00 am, 10:00 am, and 12:00 pm noon masses, will all be held in the church.

**-** John LoRusso, who looks after our buildings and grounds said that we are waiting for one more estimate, we need three, to get started on the updating of McGrath Hall. The carpet will be removed and a wood type flooring will be installed, lighting will be updated as well as the bathrooms, and the hall will be painted.

**-** Joe adjourned the meeting and Father Cyrus ended with a prayer.

**-** Next Parish Council Meeting, will be held on February, 15, 2021 7:00 pm. (Either in person or via Zoom.)

Respectively submitted,

Cathy Romano

Pastoral Council Secretary