

## **Resurrection Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

**February 24, 2021**

**Attendance** – All present except Joseph Thomas.

**Faith Sharing** – Keith Miles led us in the reflection of the Gospel recounting the Transfiguration of Christ.

**Healing Garden** – Plans submitted to Solon Planning Board the beginning of December. Parishioner and landscape architect, Doug Nemeckay met with Fr. Dragga at the end of February to review the plans. The final plan will go to the Solon City Council on March 15, 2021 for final approval. The decorative rocks, Labyrinth stones and fountain are purchased and in storage until construction can begin in mid Spring. The parish has the funding for the project except for the bridge over the swale and the path from the bridge to the garden. Per Fr. Dragga, the Labyrinth portion has been memorialized.

**Way Forward After the Pandemic** – Shawn Beatty led a discussion about the way forward after the pandemic. Following is a summary of the comments made during this discussion.

- Zoom and live streaming are fine, but there is still something missing in being remote. People miss the Eucharist. Will we ever share the Cup again? That would be a significant change. (Rosemary Herpel)
- Take a realistic look at church before the pandemic. Do we want to go back? Many are anxious to return, but live streaming is a convenience as to scheduling and dressing up and getting to Mass. (Joyce Casey)
- What is important to people now? Use of social media before the pandemic and now. (Julianne Kurdila)
- Perhaps receive the wine in cups as in some other traditions. In person worship will still hold the challenge of a disconnect because of masks and continued distancing. (Chuck Maimbourg)
- Will the sign of peace change forever? Parents with children want to have Mass in the worship space as it means more to the children. There is the social after Mass where families can gather for cookies and discussion. Children look forward to this activity. (Elizabeth Frey)

Shawn continued to the discussion of the question, “what if they don’t come back?”

- It would mean a half empty church with no visiting or fellowship. (Marianne Gotrich)
- It could lead to closure and the “community I remember would be gone.” It would be painful. There are no answers. (Mary Lou Gall)
- It is strange in church with no families with children. Perhaps waiting until all are vaccinated. Currently we have 1/3 of the usual attendance at Mass in person. On average 170 people are at Mass for the whole weekend, the equivalent of one Mass before Covid-19. (Beth Wolfson)
- Children need to be able to connect with other children at Mass. We may lose the children if they do not meet in person. (Shawn Beatty)
- It is not just Catholics, but a general global loss of spirituality. (Lisa Frey)

- There needs to be a separate strategy for the two groups, those who were regular Mass-goers and those who were not before the pandemic. (Rosemary Herpel)
- The statistics on attendance are as follows – 7% are engaged financially and provide moral support of the parish, 11% are on the rolls but never step into church, and 82% come regularly about once a month or at least four times a year for Holy days and special services. This last group also contributes food, serves on a committee, enroll children in PSR, and contribute to the offertory when they come. (Father Dragga)
- There is the possibility of purging the church. It would be sad to lose staff or even have to leave a church. There is also a drift in other religions except Mormons and Muslims. There are big issues, life, death and relationships. Maybe we need to make an overture to non-attendees. (Joyce Casey)
- There is the concept of high touch. Rosemary related how the power of a friend (Mary Bookman) brought her to Resurrection. People want to be wanted, need outreach. (Rosemary Herpel)

Shawn introduced the last discussion topic, what would we want to do differently? Break out groups were divided according to the four Emmaus 2020 cornerstones. Living the Word (Chuck), Engaging the Word (Fr. Tom), Sharing the Word (Shawn), and Learning the Word (Louise).

Following are summaries of the breakout group reporting.

- *Engaging the Word* – There are two paths - what we are supposed to do and what we do really well. How we continue to celebrate the Word through really good homilies, music and attitude. This is especially true on special Holydays. Also, we could have a grand re-opening celebration. This celebration would also coincide with our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June this year.
- *Learning the Word* – Continue to reach more people with opportunities for learning. Keep up the efforts made during the pandemic, do not let go of the momentum. Promote intergenerational opportunities to share how the Faith is learned. Take the Church and lessons out to the streets, explore experiences outside of the parish buildings and go into the city and nature.
- *Sharing the Word* – Using proactive, positive, optimistic language when we come back. Engage in one-on-one activities and celebrate an interactive Mass. There is a possibility for a contemporary Mass and the use of pre-recorded youth or children’s choir music or even live music. Activities involving physical interaction to share the word through interaction with others.
- *Living the Word* – Establish personal outreach to those experiencing loss. Emphasize families more in our service. Reinstating the Cup for receiving the Eucharist. Writing personal letters or notes to the parish members we do not often see. Create good stewardship by sharing the news of the needs of the parish for funds, repairs, works of giving to the poor, and supporting social justice.

**Dialogue Project** – Lisa Frey then provided a summary of the Dialogue Project. It will last six weeks and include facilitated large and small groups. It will include various perspectives on topics. The dialogue would take place when we could meet in person, not on Zoom. The time frame is April 6 - May 27 at this time. The facilitator will be Ted Wetzel. Rosemary Herpel asked if there will be a theme such as what we value as Americans. Lisa replied the idea is to bring people together to discuss what we have in

common, what we value. It will be a difficult conversation with a view of a hopeful outcome. It will probably be a group of twelve people sharing feelings honestly on topics of common interest from opposite viewpoints. Hopefully, it will present a “hill to climb” and a chance for dialogue, but not necessarily a solution.

**Pastoral Staff Updates** – Terry Battaglia noted that a number of youth retreats are held in March. Per Terry, they will be one day, with all Covid protocols in place for distancing and masks.

Lisa Frey added that it is the Loaves and Fishes program application time. Food baskets for Easter will be distributed on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Fr. Dragga reported that the feasibility study is on schedule for the end of March. So far the reaction is positive and individuals contacted are positive about their participation, but do not know about how others will respond. There may be a ten question “pew” survey coming in the near future. There is also a Discipleship survey being sent out to parishioners to give the US Bishops an idea of where the Church in America is at this time. Twelve Dioceses were chosen for the survey. It can be answered on-line or on paper version that is available at the parish center. As of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 140 surveys have been submitted. The survey is funded by The Lilly Corporation and the questions were formulated by professionals. Father Dragga added that suggestions of names of middle and high school boys for the retreat are needed. The goal is 15 participants and will involve an “escape” room experience.

Next meeting will be held via ZOOM on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Please keep in mind the discernment process is upcoming and try to suggest a few members to replace those 3 or 4 members ending their terms on Council.

Our Closing Prayer was A Prayer in Time of Plague by Clancy Nixon, read by Joyce Casey.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Cox  
Secretary  
Resurrection PPC