

Resurrection Parish Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2021

Attendance – All members present

Faith Sharing – Toddy McMonagle began the meeting with faith sharing of next week's gospel. In this Gospel Jesus emphasized that it was not his time. This was a turning point in thinking. It was Jesus' hour. Now is Jesus' time. Everything that came after His hour on earth. Lin Mullin said it was a hopeful gospel. Julianne Kurdila was a bit bothered by this Gospel reading. The final concluding thought was that Jesus asks us to turn on the 'willingness' button in our lives.

Parish Council Discernment – Shawn Beatty led a discussion of the new council member discernment process. Shawn will revamp the short invitation video from last year and it will go out in an email blast and be posted on the parish website. Each council member suggested names of Parish members who may possibly be interested in joining Parish Council. These individuals will receive an email invitation to consider joining Parish Council and will be contacted by a council member by phone or email to determine their interest in joining. There are twenty names on the list to be contacted.

Way Forward After the Pandemic – The pastoral staff had a day of reflection during which they again watched the video on post-pandemic church attendance. One key point of this video was that the habit of church attendance has been broken. So instead of how that can be changed back, the question was how we could continue to use technology to serve parishioners. How can we reach the young family with children who has grown accustomed to sitting in their living room together for Mass? How can we foster the 'domestic' church, the family unit? The idea of direct contact by phone calls was discussed. Also, the idea, in two words is to become more 'user friendly' in our approach to help people become more involved. It should never be a "chore" to become involved. It is not "a question of how will church going look now," but rather what we will try to do. It can be an "either/or" position and a "both/and" viewpoint.

Meeting attendance for First Communion preparation has been up with the use of technology and in person meetings. Scripture study participation during Lent was also up. Technology allowed attendance even in bad weather that was also a plus.

One caution is to remember that as a Faith community we still need “flesh and blood” contact. Fr. Dragga reminded us Roman Catholicism is a sacramental church. The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist cannot be experienced on Zoom or via livestreaming.

Following this comment Rosemary Herpel said that since the second vaccine shot, people are more willing to come to Mass in person and see and talk with people. We all want to see and be with each other. She said we need to have a “toe in the water” perhaps to proceed. This outreach could be a personal invitation to someone to join us for Mass. Joyce Casey added that an announcement of a special reopening Mass could also draw people to come back in person. The email blast this week will include an invitation to another 11 AM outdoor Mass, weather permitting. Fr. Dragga stated that people are still fearful, so it will take a while to change their thinking. This change will come with time. Meanwhile plans for our June 20th concluding anniversary Mass may be for either an inside or outdoor celebration of Liturgy.

Marketing & Communications – Shawn Beatty led an interactive online exercise discussing various issues related to Resurrection’s marketing and communications both internal and external to the Parish. Questions focused on how we receive and accept information. Shawn will use the feedback received to explore the ways in which we should expend our energies in communicating to parishioners and others. We can then be most effective in distributing information in the broadest and biggest areas of opportunity. Then the messages will have a greater impact and response.

Meeting Structure & Process – Next, the Way of Proceeding (the Parish Council’s bylaws) document was reviewed. Some brief comments relating to the document were discussed. It was noted that Parish Council needs to approve meeting minutes from the prior month at each meeting. It was also suggested that ‘Parish news of the day’ might also be added to our website to supplement the email blasts.

Pastoral Staff Updates – This coming weekend’s events are the Confirmation class retreat, the Easter Bunny drive by, the safe Easter egg hunt for children, and the last religious education classes.

June 17/18/19 will be the youth mission dates at St. Aloysius parish. There is interest in an art in the park day with neighbors and Mission Mondays with other churches.

The Discipleship survey had a 38% response which is not bad. The Pew survey had 91 responses out of 130 and the email responses were fair.

The feasibility study from Jack Kearns is going well and will be done on March 26. The Healing Garden plans were approved by the Solon City Planning Board. Now building permits can be issued. Still hope to have the garden ready by June 20, weather permitting.

Anticipated attendance for Easter will most probably be accommodated as we have enough room, under Pandemic regulations, even as attendance in person is gradually increasing.

Julie Tragon, our music director successfully defended her Thesis and was awarded a Masters’ degree in Theology from our Cleveland Seminary. Chuck Maimbourg suggested that as a Council we should offer our congratulations. It was suggested that each Council member send an email of congratulations for Julie to Louise Cox via email. Louise will compile them into a decorated booklet to present to Julie from all of us. Please submit your congratulations as soon as possible to Louise.

Closing Prayer – Our closing prayer was St. Patrick’s prayer for the Faithful.

Next meeting will be April 21, 2021. Chuck will send the Zoom link and materials. Joseph Thomas will lead our faith sharing and Julianne Kurdila will provide closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Cox, Secretary of Resurrection PPC

April 14, 2021