

Notes from Parish Council Retreat
January 16, 2021

Present: David Gailliardetz, Christine Lakey, Fr. Jack Schuler, Justin Lorenz, Melanie Ernst, Helen Heilich, Shelly Kurtz, John Gozdziwski, Erin O'Connell, Nick Ambrose, Andrew Viragh, Clare Bass, Mary Ward, Diane Gozdziwski,

Absent: Andrew Gondzur

Opening Prayer – Fr. Jack

Welcome to New Members

Shelly Kurtz, Nick Ambrose, Erin, O'Connell, Andrew Viragh, Fr. Jack shared what Parish Council is in Archdiocese of St. Louis. Councils are very supportive to Fr. Jack, especially at St. Cronan. Other members shared their views and roles on Parish Council. This is a very dynamic group. The energy of the new members has been a miracle to watch. Council members are heard and ideas are carried out. Joined as a new parish member – it was a very interesting vantage point to learn about the parish. It gives everyone a voice. Things change because of those conversations. Parish council is a distinct thing as people become members or leave. If you look at the goals, we are working on things like fundraising, updating social media. Fundraising – it's really important to bring new ideas. Don't feel just because we've done things one way, doesn't mean we can't change with new ideas. New ideas are welcome. Mary Ward and Diane Gozdziwski – we are only on the council to serve you, to help you do your work.

Question to new members: why have you joined, and why did you volunteer? Work on previous Parish Councils, bringing new ideas to St. Cronan. Joined because I love people and doing for others. My previous parish council was a lot different – made up of individual commissions. You cannot grow unless you participate. Many of us on council gravitate toward certain areas – we have tendencies, but anyone at anytime is welcome to share. I appreciate and value an opportunity to participate and share talents and experiences. These are valued at St. Cronan. Ready to offer and be part of solutions. Opportunity to get to know more people in Parish.

Becoming an Anti-Racist Parish **Speakers from College Church Anti-Racism Team** **Winnie Sullivan and Lisa Burks**

Winnie and Lisa shared their experiences at College Church for becoming an Anti-Racist Parish. We discussed various aspects of having an anti-racist focus in all we do, and working toward dismantling systemic racism within our own Parish and within the community.

Nuggets of Wisdom:

- How do we develop relationships with people and working for a more just society so people have more opportunities.
- What is the unintended impact of our actions when making contributions? What are the mechanisms in place that keep people in need?

- Our expectation that it's going to be long-term. Strategic plan for anti-racism – 30 years to be in the midst of the journey.
- We are going to fumble and mess up. Be patient and understanding of one another. Be respectful, listen to understand, deal with ambiguity.
- This something the Gospel calls us to. We are seeking a full and right relationship with each other. There is great joy in this work.
- Grounding in our faith makes it impossible to set aside. It needs to permeate everything that we do.

Emmaus Conversations

We focused on the questions:

Share some experiences you have had when you had to enter into a situation that was totally new to you. What helped you most to enter into it and eventually feel at home? What was the greatest challenge for you?

Review of Goals

We reviewed the Goals and added additional goals (see attached revisions) Justin Lorenz will organize and rewrite these goals and we will address them at the next meeting. Andrew Viragh will look for a coordinator to assist us in setting goals and with the anti-racism piece, and will provide a proposal to Fr. Jack and the Finance Committee. Also Andrew Viragh can help with appreciation dinners and can provide conference rooms at Cortex for our use.

Discernment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Parish Council Chair: Melanie Ernst

Parish Council Vice-Chair: Justin Lorenz

Sign-up for Parish Council Task-keeper Positions

Please sign up for positions here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13hcrDHSMZhNOLK6vuLi1my70CKJ90dBUCSeb48tD454/edit>

Closing Prayer – Diane G.