

St. Cronan Parish Council Minutes

April 6, 2022 @ 7pm

Secretary = Erin; Task-Keeper = John G

Present: Present: Andrew Viragh, David Gaillardetz, Diane Gozdziwski, Melanie Ernst, Fr. Jack Schuler, Jennifer Hoffman, John Gozdziwski, Justin Lorenz, Marcia Koester, Mariah Byrne, Mary Ward, Shelly Kurtz, Sr. Clare Bass,

Absent: Donna Zuroweste

Minutes

Minutes from Mar 2021 PC meeting – review and vote to approve: Edit requested to change “agenda” to “minutes” to avoid confusion. Andrew V. made a motion to approve the minutes with this change. Mariah and John G. seconded motion. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously. Mary requested that the corrected minutes be sent to her.

Old Business

COVID-19 Update (Fr. Jack): We have taken down most ribbons in church, except for a few in front. We are still urging people to wear masks. It is no longer a mandate, but still suggested. Coffee and donuts is happening, and meetings are happening in person. The community of preachers is meeting for a retreat Our Lady of the Snow.

Melanie suggested moving our PC meeting in person. The following people raised concerns and voiced preferences for to continue having a Zoom option: Jennifer lives far away. Shelly cannot drive at night. Justin suggested alternating Zoom and in person each month. Meetings were previously held at Midtown. Andrew V. offered to host hybrid meetings at his facilities. He felt indifferent about the decision as he likes the connectivity of in person meetings, but finds Zoom a convenient option when balancing with childcare. About 5-6 people expressed that they would like to meet in person. We decided to try a hybrid format and see how it goes.

All Things New Update (Fr. Jack): The survey has ended. 160 people filled out the survey (more than at church on Sunday)! There is a new survey for people who attended or work in catholic schools. Andrew found that the first questions were more for the parents than the students. Mariah asked if the survey is for local St. Louis schools, and Andrew V. confirmed that the survey is about schools in the St. Louis diocese.

Anti-Bias Anti-Racism (ABAR) Update (Andrew): Andrew has a survey to send out to the parish to gauge interest in next steps for ABAR work. However, he is waiting to send out the survey because there are a lot of surveys going on right now with All Things New. Fr. Jack noted that there is just one more survey about Catholic schools and then the webinars start. Andrew reported that we are in a holding pattern and waiting for “down time” when we are not asking the parish for thoughts on too many

other things. He asked when would be the best time to pick this work up again. Fr. Jack suggested the end of the April/beginning of May, before the wedding season.

Andrew might need feedback on wording for the email to parish because All Things New has triggered volatility among parishioners. We want to acknowledge what work has already been done with regards to ABAR, but also that a lot of work still needs to be done. Fr. Jack says we need an open comments section in the survey. Justin is willing to help with this process.

Volunteers to Lift Up (Clare): The next one will be towards the end of April or early May and we will lift up the women who started the small group discussions.

Fundraising Committee Update (Jennifer): Helen and Jennifer are in contact with Donna Morgan for the baseball raffle in the spring. The raffle runs for 7 weeks, tickets are \$25 a piece, and will be sold at church. The container garden plant sale will be in May/June.

Book Club, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Garden Committee report (Jennifer): See the report that was sent out with the agenda for details. Book discussion group is reading a new book, "The Watchman." Eileen wrote blurb on prayer shawl ministry, which is still going strong. The garden committee is back in action and will have a work day in spring/summer, which Melanie will advertise in the young adults group.

Event Banner (Erin): We looked over a new version of the event banner. Melanie and Justin thought that having a QR code would be a good idea. Andrew V. confirmed that the website address will not change even when the website is updated. Andrew V. also suggested adding the Facebook and Instagram logos and expressed the thought that people rarely look up specific website addresses anymore. Andrew V. Justin, and Mariah expressed the importance of welcome people outside of the Catholic community. We decided to do a survey amongst council members for input on the best scripture quote to include, as well as JAM board for other banner suggestions. We decided to remove the compassionate STL logo from the banner.

New Business

Young Adults Update (Melanie): We had the first official event of the year, which 15 people attended. Everyone brought food for a potluck picnic in Tower Grove Park. We talked about future ideas & activities, and suggestions included game night, hikes, beer tasting, mushroom foraging, volleyball, and a prayer service or retreat. We use GroupMe for communication and 40 people are members of the group (although many of them inactive).

Parishioner request for song lyrics display screen (Melanie): There is a parishioner who finds it hard to follow all the songs at mass and suggested putting up a screen with song lyrics. Fr. Jack said this is probably not going to work because screens can cost as much as \$30,000. Some suggestions for alternate accessibility include that Diane

sends out QR codes every week and we can look into having hearing aid options at mass. We do not know enough about the parishioner's concern to address it directly. There is already a worship aid on the website, that Diana puts up every Saturday and there is a QR code for the music on the way into the church.

Website & social media update (Andrew): The website is mapped out on pen & paper and Andrew is sending it to the web designer Michael. Andrew has been posting on Instagram and Mary is helping with Facebook, but they would like help suggesting things to post (for example, food insecurity, housing crisis, etc.). Andrew has been looking for more accounts like James Martin and Catholic Ministries, among others. We are still getting a lot of views on Facebook live, probably from homebound people. Andrew would like help with the livestreaming especially since more people are in church now. Maybe we could offer community service hours to high school students to live stream masses. We will be live-streaming the triduum services & need help.

Fr. Jack's Report

Mass with the Archbishop update: Mass with the Archbishop is scheduled for May 29th. Fr. Jack sent email to chancellor Nancy Werner, responding that our request is not about the synod and has not heard back.

Synodal listening sessions report (LGBTQIA & Catholics who left the church): We had a successful, spirited, prayerful, and sorrowful listening session for the synod on LGPTQIA+. 100 people came, each table had a scribe, and Olivia is condensing all the notes. They passed out a paper encouraging people to sign up for "New Ways" and 52 papers came back with feedback. Marie Kenyon is behind organizing this and we might be able to get grant money.

Pride Celebration: David is stepping down and DeeDee and Eileen are stepping up to organize the St. Cronans booth at Pride Fest.

Catholic Bishops statement, "God is On Your Side": Fr. Jack wants everyone to take a look and vote on this at the next meeting.

Holy Week: We will be blessing palms on Palm Sunday. Holy Thursday mass is at 7pm, no mass on Good Friday, and Easter Vigil will start with outdoor fire. There are no baptisms this year.

Creating a Congregational Manifesto: Be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting. Should this be a parish council responsibility, parish assembly, or not at all?

Diane's Report

Peace in Ukraine Prayer Service: Prayer for Ukraine is recorded and on the website. Do we want a prayer service?

COVID prayer service: The COVID prayer service is also posted on the website.

Stations of the Cross atonement for those abused: Coming out April 8th at 3pm on the website and Facebook.

Diane needs people to lector during triduum & people for Holy Thursday. Email if you can help.

CPR training coming up: They want to do a survey.

Committee report: Coffee and donuts is happening. Liturgy committee is prepping for triduum. St. Vincent DePaul wants to have a pancake breakfast (possibly in the fall).

Mary's Report (8:15-8:20)

Bell tower roof update: There is a bucket in the stairwell to the choir loft catching water. We are getting the leak repaired instead of replacing the roof.

Church wi-fi: We have wi-fi in the church and will change name of wi-fi and password.
Truck sold: We sold the green pick-up to someone at midtown who works on trucks.

Wish list update (painting, Mary statue, & banners): Painting is complete. We are still looking at Mary statues and trying to get one for May.

Lots of people asking what the extra letters on the LGBTQIA+. Could we compose an informational description? Andrew will send an email because people have been inquiring about Andrew's use of the word "queer." The letters are now limiting and "queer" is more umbrella term. Andrew & David explaining the definitions and how each person feels about all the terms, but understanding these terms is often situational. People genuinely want to support the LGBTQIA+ Community and understand the terminology, and so Mary is looking for information that she can share with people.

Task-Keeper Report (John G)

- Andrew → set up a hybrid space for our council meetings
- Andrew → wants feedback on ABAR survey & welcomes all suggests
- Clare → lift wp volunteers
- Erin → send out banner quotes to parish
- Erin & Andrew → talk about Jam board for banner feedback
- Andrew → help Andrew with website/social media postings
- Ask high school students to help stream masses
- Everyone → take a look at Bishop statement and congregational manifesto
- David → offering to host "Q&A" re" queer terminology

Jennifer thanks everyone for a beautiful ceremony for Bill Barrett.

Justin thanked everyone for sending flowers.

Closing Prayer (Clare)

Next Meeting: May 4th, 2022 @ 7pm

Secretary = Justin; Task-Keeper = Erin

Opening Prayer = Mariah; Closing Prayer = Shelly