

St. Cronan Parish Council Minutes

March 2, 2022 @ 7pm

Secretary = Jennifer; **Task-Keeper** = Mariah

Present: Melanie Ernst, Mariah Byrne, Jennifer Hoffman, Mary Ward, Fr. Jack Schuler, Diane Gozdziwski, John Gozdziwski, Shelly Kurtz, Erin O'Connell, Donna Zuroweste, Sr. Clare Bass, Marcia Koester, Andrew Viragh

Absent: Justin Lorenz, David Gaillardetz, Sr. Clare Bass

Dyad Check-Ins (7-7:10)

Opening Prayer (Marcia)

Minutes

Parish Council reviewed minutes from February 2, 2022 Parish Council meeting. There were no suggested additions or corrections to the minutes. Andrew made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Marcia seconded the motion. The motion was voted and approved unanimously.

It was proposed to record the Parish Council meetings to aid the accurate preparation of minutes. A motion was made by Andrew V. to record the Parish Council meetings and send the recording to the Secretary for that monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by Donna Z. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Old Business (7:15-7:55)

All Things New Update (Fr. Jack): Meeting of priests in the Deanery with Fr. Martin and School to gauge how parishioners were feeling and there was no consistent consensus. There will be another Deanery meeting but nothing was decided. The survey went out today by CronanTalk and is due by April 4th. It is important to complete.

COVID-19 Update (Fr. Jack): COVID is easing up in Missouri and Fr. Jack will ask the Health Committee if the Parish can re-institute "in person" coffee and doughnuts. Mask wearing in church will probably be retained with social distancing at Mass. Some tape is being removed from back pews due to accommodate larger crowds at Mass. Andrew V. will forward some medical info to Fr. Jack from his husband re masking and COVID. Fr. Jack said will the Parish will continue to monitor COVID-19 protocols,

Parish goals & priorities (Melanie E.): Has list of long term goals for the Parish with lists of active activities and committees. Is compiling a list of Parish Council liaisons for Parish committees as a point person to report on needs and keep PC updated. The following is a list of liaisons for coordination with Parish Council:

- ABAR - Andrew and Justin
- Hospitality (Christine Lakey) - Erin
- Young Adults Group - Melanie
- Volunteer Appreciation - Sr. Clare
- Prayer Shawls (Eileen Heidenheimer)- Jennifer
- Coffee and Doughnuts - Diane
- Adult Formation Small Groups - David
- Liturgy - Diane
- Community of Preachers - (Sr. Chabanel) Fr. Jack
- Social Justice (Al Sprehe) - Fr. Jack will report
- MCU - Diane and Mariah
- St. Vincent DePaul (Kathleen Johnson) - Diane
- Food Pantry (Kathy Hunn) - Mary Ward and Erin
- Parish Gardening Committee (Glenn Eckert and Jennifer) - Jennifer
- Fundraising (Helen Heilich) - Jennifer
- Finance - Committee joins PC for meetings
- Social Media - Andrew and Mary (This Committee needs a strategic plan by PC and is on the list of PC priorities.

Fr. Jack suggested that the list of committees and liaisons should be posted on CronanTalk and also included in the Parish Directory at the next printing. Discussion ensued regarding whether to include contact individual/info for each ministry; PC decided for privacy concerns to have interested parishioners contact Mary Ward if an interested in participation on a committee.

Anti-Bias Anti-Racism (ABAR) Update (Andrew): Andrew wants to make an announcement at Mass with a ABAR survey for parishioners, but has held off due to weather, “All Things New”, and COVID. Fr. Jack suggested to hold off introducing ABAR until after the “All Things New” survey. Fr. Jack suggested to table ABAR and add to the PC April agenda. Fr. Jack and Chabanel will monitor “All Things New” surveys to see how quickly are completed in the Parish. The ABAR Committee wanted a Parish community-wide assessment with the survey to determine parishioners’ priorities regarding ABAR and give parishioners the opportunity to vote on options which were offered by consultant.

Website (Andrew): Work on the website has been personally challenging for Andrew due to his personal work constraints. The website developer made a significant discount, which required more time and background work by Andrew. It is high on Andrew’s list to complete the website, but he must attend to his personal work first.

Justin’s father passed and Andrew offered to buy flowers and take contributions toward sending flowers by sending money to him by Venmo.

Volunteers to Lift Up (Clare): Not in attendance.

Fundraising Committee Update (Jennifer):

Helen Helich provided Jennifer with an evaluation of past fundraising activities:

Past fundraising activities were mum and poinsettia sales (raised about \$1000 - \$2000 for each mum and poinsettia sale), football booster raffle (raised about \$900), condo raffle with condo donated by Helen and Sandy and they made the raffle tickets (big undertaking but raised \$5000 - \$6000), sale of Imo's pizzas from the freezer in the Parish Center.

The following are a list of prior suggested fundraising activities from PC or the Committee: Spring baseball booster raffle (April - Sep.); plant nursery offered other plants for sale as fundraiser; the dancing priest -with Fr. Jack; raffling off a chest freezer of meat and other frozen items; sell frozen butter braids from freezer in Parish Center; Fall Festival; Parish nights in a park; and outdoor, indoor or virtual trivia night.

The current Committee members listed are Helen Heilich, Sandy McKinney, Janice Fairless, Susan Marting, and Nick Ambrose.

Parish Council suggested the following fundraising activities: Fr. Jack received info on a raffle fundraiser from a parish on the East Coast, which he will forward to Jennifer. Erin and Marcia suggested selling plants such as indoor plants, herbs, vegetable plants, and containers to grow on balconies as an alternative to garden bed plants.

Hospitality Committee Update (Erin): Christine Lakey created a new green sign-up binder for visitors to the Parish. Hospitality will follow-up with contacting visitors to welcome them. Christine requested a copy of the PC minutes and Fr. Jack said can only send minutes after approved (month later). Erin can report to Christine informally as liaison for the Hospitality Committee and will inform Christine of this procedure.

Parish Event Banner (Mary): PC gave Mary input to develop an event banner and with minimal input Mary and Erin produced a "mock up" of an event banner. The proposed banner has a blue background to reflect the new sign outside church to be cohesive. In the past the banner has been used at STL Pride, as well as Pride in St. Charles and in Tower Grove, BLM vigils. PC members loved including scripture on the banner and discussed which scripture to include; the banner is welcoming. Our Parish serves people beyond the Grove, in other areas of the metropolitan area. Andrew suggested inclusion of an address or website address with perhaps FB and Instagram logos on the banner as a "call to action" or refer to the Parish website. A QR code would not be easy to search if the banner is in a parade; could use the QR code if used in a booth or have a frame with a QR code at a booth. Members suggested to send the sample banner in an email. The scripture passages were suggested by Fr. Jack. to the parish for comment. It was discussed that there should be care as to the interpretation by scripture and the meaning for other groups of people not as familiar with scripture, such as "the least one." Scripture could be interpreted the wrong way, especially in the LGBTQIA community. In the past issues were raised about any churches being

involved in a Pride parade or festival as considered invasive of safe space for those who suffered trauma from the Catholic Church. It was suggested to add the “Compassionate STL” logo to the Parish banner. Members commented that preferred the terms “welcoming” and “loving” on the banner, as opposed to “do no harm”.

New Business:

Report as Liaison for the Book Discussion Group, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Garden Committee/Parish Grounds - Jennifer (7:55-8:00):

St. Cronan Book Discussion Group

- Leader: Christine Lakey
- Monthly meeting remotely by Zoom; meeting for over a year
- Members: 9 current members (7 women; 2 men)
- 14 Books read and discussed.

ST. CRONAN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

- Leader: Eileen Heidenheimer
- Active ministry where members crochet and knit prayer shawls for the sick of the parish
- Eileen is compiling a report for the PC

ST. CRONAN GARDEN COMMITTEE

- Leader: Glenn Eckert
- Asst Leader: Jennifer Hoffman
- Members: Approx. 10 active members
- Glenn is compiling a report for the PC
- Question as to involving the Confirmation youth in a neighborhood clean up

Fr. Jack's Report (8:00-8:10):

Fr. Jack emailed the Chancellor re Mass with the Archbishop at our Parish. The email reply from the Chancellor is that the Archbishop does not want to have a listening session after Mass with our parishioners. Fr. Jack asked whether the PC wants the Archbishop to come if he does not want to stay and listen to parishioners. PC members asked whether this is typical behavior by an Archbishop to decline an invitation to engage with parishioners. Fr. Jack said the Chancellor suggested that there will be 350 listening sessions so parishioners should go to one of those sessions. Fr. Jack stated that normally a bishop will do all the talking when he goes to a parish. Melanie asked to send an email to PC members and request a reply by the end of the week as to whether to ask the Archbishop to come for a Mass. Fr. Jack also said that an Archbishop will engage in some social activities with parishes, such as Coffee and Doughnuts, but there are physical time constraints.

Bill Barrett's Memorial Mass will be April 2, 2022 at a time TBD.

Status of Synodal listening sessions by a task force: Fr. Jack was approached by Marie Kenyon, in charge of LGBTQIA sessions, to have listening sessions at SC.

- LGBTQIA at St. Cronan's: Fr. Jack was given a list of dates to send to Marie and see if a bishop can join one of those sessions. The sessions are for those who still have some affiliation with the Church. Fr. Jack has been asked to provide a list of questions for the session for the LGBTQIA Committee.
- Hopes to have the session prior to the end of Lent.
- Session for Catholics who have left the church is already scheduled for March 12th at 9:30am at Aquinas Institute. All are welcome to come. Fr. Doyen is in charge of that and the questions for that session.

Diane's Report (8:10-8:15):

The Parish will have a COVID Prayer Service. Diane will send a rough draft of the service to be held in March, probably March 21st. PC can email suggestions for changing the service to Diane.

It was suggested to have a peace for Ukraine Prayer Service: Diane asked whether to combine both COVID and Ukraine services into one or keep separate. The service(s) could be conducted online and live-streamed. PC should send Diane their opinions. Diane asked whether to have a Reconciliation Service. In the past such a service has not been well attended and could be dropped. There was support to have separate services so as to devote the appropriate attention to each of those issues. Parishioners could perhaps attend prayer services in other churches to show support for Ukrainians in solidarity. Jennifer stated that there was a demonstration in Tower Grove to show support for Ukraine. Jennifer's husband called Assumption Parish in South County to see if there were any services but did not receive a reply. Jennifer discussed UCare, Inc., which is an organization that her family has been involved with and supported for many years, and focuses Ukrainian children.

First Communion will be held at a separate time on Sunday, May 1st in the afternoon at 1pm. The First Communicants have large extended families so there will be a large crowd of about 100 at the ceremony. Fr. Jack stated that there is no room in our church facility for 200 people and would crowd out parishioners with COVID restrictions.

Diane asked if there would be a place on the Parish website to add Lenten reflections, or recipes, etc. There will be cards at the church to add reflections to the wall. Diane has not had good luck with a Google Docs link for sharing reflections. It was suggested to share Lenten reflections on the St. Cronan FB Group. However, some parishioners will not go on FB. If reflections shared on CronanTalk, it may overwhelm CronanTalk.

The PC minutes can be shared on the parish website. The list of PC members on the Parish website has not been updated since 2019, except for Melanie's name. The minutes would contain a list of PC Members. It was suggested to list the names of PC members to the Parish website as a point of information, and to contact the Parish

office if anyone has questions or requests info. Marcia commented that is good for the Parish to know the names of the PC so that could be approached with questions. Mariah suggested that this question should be posed by email to all PC members since some PC members are missing from tonight's meeting. Erin suggested to include the decision to record PC meetings in the email circulated to all PC members. Melanie will send the email.

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

The painter at the Parish Center is working now on the prep work of plastering and sanding and he will begin painting soon.

St. Cronan has become a Compassionate St. Louis Partner. Mary worked with Donna Z. to become a partner parish. The Charter was sent with the PC minutes. There is an invitation to invite other organizations to become partners, which Mary has forwarded. The Parish will add the logo to the Parish website if approved by PC. As a member of Compassionate St. Louis, the Parish commits to be compassionate. Compassionate STL also requests that every member of the PC become a member. Mary will send the charter out to the Parish to let all know of this new affiliation. Fr. Jack suggested that PC make an announcement at Mass regarding Compassionate St. Louis, which Melanie offered to do. Melanie asked what the long-term goal of Compassionate STL is and how success is measured. Donna says the group is concerned about what parishes are joining and how it is implemented. Melanie will discuss with Donna as to what message to bring to SC parishioners. The conveners of Compassionate St. Louis are Carla May Streeter, who is familiar with SC and our spirit, and Fr. Jerry Stucke, a Dominican. Carla is affiliated with Aquinas Institute. Mary will wait to send the charter to the Parish until Melanie makes the announcement. Melanie plans to make announcements at the next 8am and 10 am Masses, and Donna will announce at 5pm Mass on Saturday.

Task-Keeper Report (Mariah):

- Complete All Things New Survey: all PC Members;
- Contact Andrew for contributions to flowers for the memorial for Justin's father;
- PC send thoughts by Friday to Melanie re Archbishop saying Mass at SC;
- Melanie will share Liaison list with PC;
- Melanie will meet with Donna Z. to compose thoughts on Compassionate STL; affiliation, which Melanie will announce to the Parish at next Sunday's 8am and 10am Masses and Donna will announce at the 5pm Saturday Mass;
- Melanie will compile replies of PC thoughts re Archbishop's visit and send to Fr. Jack; by Friday;
- Diane will share Liaison list with the Parish via CronanTalk and the Bulletin;
- Diane and Melanie and Erin will email PC with the Zoom recording the PC meetings and names on the website;
- Erin will update the banner design with the Parish's contact info and the Compassionate STL logo.

Question from Donna regarding the printing of the SC bulletin and request to add Compassionate STL logo. Fr. Jack said that we were asked to pay \$3,000 for a bulletin so SC does not use a publisher. Only 30 bulletins were used each week.

Catholic Leadership Initiative and the synodal listening sessions from (Donna):

Researched and the Catholic Leader Institute is connected to FOCUS, which is related to Tim Bush's NAPA Institute. Donna is suggesting that will not be much listening at the synodal. Fr. Jack asked that Donna send him her research. Donna said that FOCUS is used on campuses to recruit young people.

Please remember in prayer David G.'s father, who has pancreatic cancer and Justin and his family.

Closing Prayer (Melanie)

Next Meeting: Apr 6nd, 2022 @ 7pm

Secretary = Erin; Task-Keeper = John G

Opening Prayer = David; Closing Prayer = Clare