

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; online via Zoom
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Ed Condon, present

Francine Freitas, present

Jo Gonsalves, present

Darrin Greer, vice chair, present

Margaret Healy, excused

Linda Hill, present

Melba Hinojosa, present

Sue Kenney, present

Patrick Mahan, present

Emer McKenna, acting secretary, present

Bob Reid, chair, present

Janet Vitt, secretary, excused

Also attending was J.D. Warrick of the parish staff.

Chair Bob Reid opened the meeting at 6:07 p.m., and Darrin Greer led a prayer.

The minutes of the Sept 14, 2021, regular council meeting were reviewed and approved upon motion by Sue Kenney, seconded by Francine Freitas. They will be posted on the parish website.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Des O'Reilly provided the following updates:

- Due to vacation, Fr. Des O'Reilly did not have a report. He stressed that the pandemic infection rate is still high so prudence dictates that we continue to be vigilant and out of an abundance of caution continue to follow the health and safety guidelines.
- Fr. O'Reilly approved the appointment of Ed Condon as School Representative. This appointment was made in agreement with the Principal, the Pastor and the Chair. It is a three year appointment, and the as the Parish Council's School Representative Ed Condon will attend the school's meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Ed Condon will be provided with more details about the specifics in the coming weeks.
- Fr. O'Reilly congratulated Ed Condon on the marriage of his son Tim and Xochtil.
- Fr O'Reilly wished Emer McKenna: All blessings and good wishes on her birthday. "May the blessing of St. Patrick enfold you; May the Road Rise to meet you and may the Sun be always at your back."

Parish Council Renewal Planning Report: Darrin Greer provided an update for the Parish Council Renewal/Retreat:

- **Proposed Date:** Darrin Greer consulted with Fr. Des O'Reilly about meeting in the courtyard for the PC Renewal/retreat on Sunday, October 24, 2021. Fr. O'Reilly's preference is not to schedule events on Sundays - Dies Domini (keep the Lord's Day holy). Any other day is acceptable. When picking a date we must be cognizant that the weather will get colder which may present some challenges. To that note, Darrin Greer spoke to Principal Hrga and he mentioned that the school may have some heat lamps and/or Pop Ups that we can use if needed. Darrin Greer would like to schedule a date in which Fr. O'Reilly can be present. Sue Kenney recommended that we schedule before the time change. The time changes on November 5/6 2021. Bob Reid suggested that the first week of November may be a good goal date. Darrin Greer will send out a survey to the twelve invitees to finalize the date that works best for the collective.

- **Planning Meetings:** Darrin Greer will be meeting with Ed Condon and Emer McKenna next week for a pre-planning lunch. If other PC members would like to attend/help with planning please email Darrin Greer.
- **Food/Activities:** Darrin Greer would like to host food at the event and as a result will be sending out an email to the twelve invitees to see if there are any food/dietary restrictions. Darrin Greer has some initial ideas of group activities that he has used in school setting that have worked well in the past. For example, setting up four groups of three and rotating groups for discussions.
- **Location:** The PC Renewal gathering will be held outdoors in the Parish Center courtyard. Ed Condon asked if, health and safety permitting, the council would be open to attending indoors. The council agreed that if it was safe/permitted to meet indoors then Brunsman Hall would be better equipped to accommodate the group. The team will continue to plan for the in-person event to be held outdoors in the courtyard and, in the event that the health and safety guidelines/Parish allow, may switch to indoors.

Membership Report: Darrin Greer consulted with Fr. O'Reilly regarding holding an election to replace some members that recently stepped down (Kent Meyers and Gary Myrick) and those that are terming out. Fr. Des O'Reilly recommended that we push the elections out until at least Spring/Summer 2022 based on the Covid numbers to allow for live elections to take place. Bob Reid thanked Darrin Greer and all involved for his/their continued flexibility during the pandemic.

Chair's Report: Bob Reid provided the following updates:

- **Outreach Working Group** – Bob Reid asked if there was any progress on the Ministry Fair event idea for both during Covid and Post-Covid times. Ed Condon recommended that task be assigned to the Outreach Working Group. The Outreach Working Group will complete its Procedure report and during its meetings they will discuss the Ministry Fair concept. Francine Freitas asked for clarification as to what will happen the Outreach Working Group once it has completed its work. Once the Outreach Working Group has presented its final report to the Parish Council, the working group will have completed its purpose and a standing Outreach Committee will be formed for ongoing efforts.
- **PC-Staff Christmas Party** – Last year's virtual party was a great success and Fr. Des would like us to plan for another virtual party again this year, and then in the event that the health and safety guidelines permit we can switch to an in-person gathering closer to the date. Emer and Francine agreed to team up again to host the virtual party again this year. We will need to pick a date soon. The PC-Staff party includes the Parish Council, Parish Staff and the Finance Council. The Parish Council is looking forward to another fun celebration.
- **Diocesan PPC Convocation** – Bob Reid sent a video for the Parish Council to watch of the Diocesan PPC Convocation that was held via a virtual event on Saturday, October 9, 2021. Francine Freitas, Jo Gonsalves and Bob Reid were able to view the event. Jo Gonsalves reflected that the speaker was thoughtful and insightful with what he shared. Bob Reid agreed.

Staff Liaison Report: JD Warrick shared the following updates:

- **Annual Mass Count** – Beth White will be doing the annual mass count for the next three weeks of October. Persons that attend mass in-person and attend the live stream will be included in the count.
- **Litany of Remembrance** – Instead of Remembrance Mums again this year, a litany will be assembled to remember loved ones who died since last November 1st. During the next two weeks, Beth White will be collecting the photographs and names of loved ones to be remembered in the litany. There will be a notice in the bulletin and Flocknote for the next two weekends – October

16/17 and October 23/24 – asking people to email Beth White (BethW@stfrancisparish.com) with the details of the loved one(s) to be remembered including: Name, Date of Birth, Date of Death and a photograph. The remembered do not have to be parishioners, they can be family members. The litany will take the same format as last year and will be a virtual memorial accompanied with music as part of the livestream mass.

- **Live Stream Updates** - JD Warrick reported on the number of persons viewing the streamed/recorded 9:30 Sunday Masses and special services:

Channel Subscribers: Total of 458 subscribers to the St. Francis of Assisi Channel to date.

SUNDAY 9:30 MASS*

- 09/19/21 – 204 views
- 09/26/21 – 143 views
- 10/03/21 – 205 views (Feast of St. Francis)
- 10/10/21 – 145 views

** Totals reported were as of 4:15 PM, Tuesday October 12, 2021. The 9:30 mass typically has 60-80 people viewing live, and the remaining views are distributed throughout the week.*

SPECIAL SERVICES (unlisted link/link is provided by invitation only)

- 09/10/21 – Funeral – 15 views
- 09/23/21 – Funeral – 18 views
- 09/24/21 – Funeral – 45 views
- 10/03/21 – Funeral – 75 views
- 10/09/21 – Wedding – 39 views

Diaper Donation: Ed Condon thanked all that were involved and stepped up to help with the Diaper Drive. On Monday Patrick Mahan and JD Warrick picked up the donations and dropped them off at Well Springs. Patrick Mahan reported that the Well Springs team were great to work with, they were incredibly motivated and positive. Ed Condon especially wanted to recognize Patrick Mahan, as Patrick really embraced the opportunity and took it on as his own. Ed Condon was unable to be present over the past two weeks and was appreciative of everyone who assisted in his absence. Ed Condon informed Patrick Mahan that the school has approximately an additional 200 boxes, which is a couple of truck loads to be moved to Well Spring. Patrick Mahan and JD Warrick will assist with transporting the remaining items.

The drive has been incredibly successful overall with 10,000 diapers being collected overall. In addition there were lots of wipes donated, and creams.

JD Warrick asked Ed Condon if he could use the picture/photograph that he had sent, and if he would like to include a Thank You in the bulletin and Flocknote for all those who donated and as a shout out to the volunteers. Ed Condon agreed that this would be a good idea and will send JD Warrick a draft of the submission on the evening of October 12, 2021 so it would be added to the bulletin/Flocknote.

In closing his report, Ed Condon reflected on his son's recent wedding, and that the visitors that attended commented on how beautiful and warm the Church was and the service. Ed Condon said that it was a blessed reminder of how blessed we all are to have such a beautiful place to celebrate. Francine Freitas agreed and thanked Ed Condon for the reminder.

Faith Formation: Emer McKenna informed the council that the Faith Formation Team hosted a Welcome event on Saturday October 09, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. during which the Faith Formation families could drive by and meet the Catechists and pick up their child's book/welcome packet for the year. It was a successful event, with many families stopping by to collect their packets. For those families that were unable to make the Welcome day, Beth White sent out information letting them know the times this week that they can stop by the parish center to collect their Welcome packets.

The St. Francis of Assisi 2021-2022 Faith Formation program commenced on Sunday, October 10, 2021 for all grades (1st thru 8th). Melissa Terry and Emer McKenna are the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade Catechists; Stacie and Jared Jensen are the 4th Grade Catechists; Jo Gonsalves is the 5th and 6th grade catechist, and Kent and Patricia Meyers are the 7th and 8th grade catechists. Emer McKenna expressed her gratitude to all the catechists for volunteering, and to Jo Gonsalves for teaching the 5th and 6th grade classes. Without our volunteers we would not be able to offer such a robust Faith Formation program. We hope to be able to resume to in-person classes next Faith Formation year.

The target date for First Communion is May 1st, but that date is still tentative. Beth White is finalizing the Faith Formation calendar, but the initial draft shows that we have approximately 26 weeks of lessons.

The program is off to a great start and we are looking forward to a successful year.

Sue Kenney asked for an update on RCIA. Emer McKenna reported that Shari Roeseler will continue to teach RCIA this year, and that there may be additional catechists helping. Emer McKenna will find out for the next PC meeting and will include an RCIA update to the council with her Faith Formation report.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, November 9, 2021, by Zoom. Jo Gonsalves and Melba Hinojosa will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Francine Freitas led the Council in a closing prayer, and Bob said a final blessing. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emer McKenna, acting secretary