St. Louis King of France Pastoral Council
Meeting minutes – Tuesday, April 23, 2020 via Zoom

Attendance:
✓ Fr. Matthew Kinney✓ Fr. Jesse Martinez✓ Daniel Caballero, President
✓ Donna McClung, Ex Officio
✓ Ken Horton17-20✓ Ofelio Guevara17-20✓ Bruni Cruz17-20
✓ Lauren Ward18-21✓ Joe Ramacciotti18-21✓ Maribel Vera19-21✓ Marie Cehovin20-21

I. Opening
   a. Meeting Call to Order at 6:05 pm
   b. Opening Prayer: Fr. Matthew
   c. Approved February minutes

II. Pastor’s Report – Fr. Matthew Kinney
Response to COVID-19 crisis – the order to close the doors happened during our spring break.
   a. Staff update
      i. Staff members have been working on adapting their ministries to the changed circumstances and using resources available to us.
      ii. Catechesis is continuing to happen virtually
      iii. The media team has been invaluable during this time
      iv. Social Ministries is an essential operation – there has been an increase in the number of people requesting assistance
      v. The school has been able to continue providing education to the families
      vi. ECDC has closed their operation since spring break. They could reopen but we haven’t had enough families wanting to use the program.
      vii. Support staff were placed on furlough due to finances but we have received an assistance loan and have removed them from furlough for the next 8 weeks.
   b. Finances
      i. Revenue decreased by 50-60 % during the first weekend of the crisis.
      ii. Substantial gifts have been given to the parish and we are now running at 70-75 %.
      iii. Utility bills have been lower, salaries have been reduced by 10 %
      iv. The budget will have to be reevaluated and a meeting has been scheduled with the Finance Council
      v. SVdP is overwhelmed and cannot take any new cases until May. The economic downfall is going to be huge for the needy. Catholic Charities of CenTex has received a RISE grant for helping those who need rent assistance, this is another resource that SVdP can work with.
c. Liturgy
   i. We have been able to recruit volunteers to help with the liturgy and have created a new normal. We are preparing for different scenarios for the liturgy as changes are allowed. Less amount of people, shorter Masses, but at the normal times we have previously had
   ii. Reconciliation is made available by appointment only (https://www.st-louis.org/reconciliation-2); this can be requested through our website and is anonymous. They are taking place in the same confessional.
   iii. Adoration and Vespers are available online
   iv. The Council has been asked to share all of the parish’s news and announcements via social media to continue getting information out there for everyone
   v. Holy Week services were made available online due to the efforts of our media team
   vi. As our doors will be allowed open in the future weeks social distancing will be enforced during liturgies

d. We are housing two seminarians – Deacon Miguel Flores and Deacon Christian Stelly.

e. Communication
   i. Cristian has been invaluable for updating our website and maintaining our social media
   ii. A phone tree was created to get a message out to parishioners in order to make contact with them and reach those who are not online
   iii. What are our priests hearing from parishioners? Grateful for reconciliation being made available. Social Ministries are struggling with the numbers of people asking for assistance.

f. Sacraments
   i. The families who were supposed to receive the Rites of Initiation (baptism, confirmation, communion) will be scheduled as soon as possible in small gatherings. Awaiting plans from the bishop.
   ii. Weddings are being scheduled for a maximum of 10 people

III. Old Business:
   a. Parish Council Discernment
      i. We have decided to delay discernment to Jul/Aug (originally May/Jun) to accommodate the crisis situation
   b. Parish Feast Day
      i. Will talk about this again in May to see how the COVID-19 situation has changed
      ii. Aug 22, 2020 after 5pm Mass
      iii. Council members have volunteered to be on the committee
   c. New Council Member – Marie Cehovin (term 2020-21) introduced herself and her history at the parish with the other Council members.

IV. New Business:
   a. N/A

V. Perspectives from the Pews:
   a. We have heard many parishioners are thrilled with the Mass and other liturgies (Vespers, Adoration, etc) being made available online for anyone to watch. Even others who haven’t been to St. Louis before are tuning in.
b. *Will personal protective attire (masks) be required at our liturgies?* Yes, and masks will be donated to the church to provide for anyone who arrives without one.

c. *Have we called all the parishioners?* Over 1,000 phone calls were made and that does not cover everyone. Some of the phone numbers were not updated. Many were happy to receive the call and to learn that they had online options. Some returned the phone calls to ask questions.

d. *Does Social Ministries have enough volunteers?* Depends on the area. Saturday mornings have been well attended by volunteers. During the week it has not been safe for our retiree volunteers to help. SVdP could use more volunteers to make phone calls. MLF truck used to have 20 runs a week but now is down to 5 due to lack of volunteers.

e. *What if someone comes to church for Mass and is obviously sick?* People will be asked ahead of time not to come if they are sick (or have a cough). Hospitality Ministers will be trained to handle a situation if that happens.

f. *Some are worried that some who are sick will want to come because they are sick. Can we use thermometers to test everyone coming in?* Not yet, we aren’t at that stage. Sanitize everything, follow state/city instructions, social distancing, just like we are seeing in grocery stores right now.

g. *The elderly are the ones most at risk and they will believe they need to attend Mass; can it be emphasized that no one is still required to go?* Yes, we can make that part of our messaging.

h. *Some parishioners have asked: What can I do to help? What is the greatest need?* Suggestion - try a fundraising campaign via social media (using a video) to fill the needs for ministries like SVdP.

VI. Agenda Items for the next meeting
a. Parish Feast Day
b. Email Daniel if we have items to add

VII. Closing prayer and blessing – Fr. Matthew
a. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next meeting will be on May 26th, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the conference room.
Minutes submitted by Lauren Ward.