

Annunciation Catholic Church
Pastoral Council Meeting
June 22, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: The meeting was attended by Monsignor Mellone, Deacon Grzegorz, Anita Siegfriedt, Ron Silvestri, Joe Fiorello, and Art Lohsen.

Deacon Grzegorz opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:02 pm.

I. Presentation - Exterior Environmental Upgrades

- James Ward joined the meeting to propose a number of landscaping and exterior environmental improvements. These include regrading the East lawn for parish events; relocating the parish sign on the West (at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and 39th Street (if it is not on our property already), adding solar lighting to our signage and landscaping, and adding a wheelchair ramp that leads directly to the front entry doors. The proposal estimates this might cost \$150,000. The funds for this work would be raised by hosting a parish silent auction.
- James stated that when we have outdoor parish functions in the parking lot, we take up parking spaces. The East lawn could be used for parish events, but would need to be leveled and made more walkable. James noted that it is difficult to walk on the grass that is currently there.
- During events, James mentioned that a curtain might be placed around the shrine and seating area in front of Our Lady on the East lawn.
- Ron Silvestri asked about the estimated cost, and James clarified that it was merely his guess, and was not based on any specific design or input from a landscape contractor. Ron mentioned that landscaping work is expensive in the current economic climate.
- James explained the idea of using a silent auction to raise the required funds. His intent would be to feature expensive items that the parish would obtain at a much lower cost. As an example, he mentioned that Lucid Motors might be willing to donate an electric car to be auctioned, which would be a marketing opportunity for them.
- Art Lohsen explained that the parish is already committed to paying for the completion of the elevator addition, for which some pledges have not been completed, and also for the cost of the carillon, which was seen as an opportunity to raise additional funds for the project. The parish is also struggling after 1 ½ years of very low offertory income due to the pandemic. Art cautioned that we should not try to ask our parishioners for too much at any one time. He suggested that landscaping improvements would be best done after the addition and carillon are completed.
- James responded that fundraising is easier if it is done all at once, and that this is the time to get all of our parish improvements done.
- Deacon Grzegorz said this would be a good fundraising opportunity, and that we should consider raising the money now, while the addition project is underway, even if the landscaping work would not be done until later.
- Art suggested that the proposed landscaping work could be split into individual projects and completed over time.
- James said it would be best to do everything at once. He explained that the parish could work with a local bank to arrange financing that would be part of auctioning off a car.
- Ron related the story of a car that was part of a raffle. James and Monsignor clarified that the intent would be a silent auction, not a raffle.
- The Pastoral Council agreed to consider this proposal and discuss it again at our next meeting.

II. Construction Update

- Art Lohsen gave the council an update on our elevator addition project.
- Demolition and excavation are complete.

- The project is on schedule
- The only unexpected budget increase has been for the removal of some additional asbestos floor tile that was not anticipated before construction began.
- Monarc, our contractor, is being very respectful of not making loud noise during the 8am Mass and any funerals during the day.
- The carillon details are being coordinated between the McShane Bell Company and our architectural and engineering team.
- Construction is scheduled to be complete at the end of November. We are still early in the construction process, and that date may change.

III. Hymn Signboard

- Monsignor reported that he had look at several options for signboards, and they start at several hundred dollars. Starting this weekend, we will be printing bulletins again, and Monsignor would like to resume printing the small hymn and reading list that the ushers can hand out in the Narthex.

IV. Ministry Meetings Update

- Deacon Grzegorz gave the council an update on the meetings he is currently holding with groups of lay ministers in the parish.
- There were 5 altar servers (2 adults and 3 youth) that attended an organizational meeting. There may be additional youth altar servers that become available in the fall.
- 10 lectors attended a training session on June 10th.
- Grzegorz will be holding upcoming meetings with Eucharistic ministers and ushers soon.
- There are also plans for developing a youth ministry program on weekends, and including children from Annunciation Catholic School.
- There is now a Rosary after the 8am Mass each day.

V. Parish Reopening

- Monsignor gave an overview of the challenges involved in returning the parish to a more normal operation.
- He has sent out a Flocknote explaining the end of the dispensation on Mass attendance.
- We are losing some of the priests who used to help celebrate our Masses. Fr. Sands is moving out of the rectory, but will be able to help on occasion, and one of the Society of St. John priests has been moved to Oregon and the other may be committed to Masses at American University.
- The parish will need to decide when to reinstate the children's liturgy of the Word, and at what Mass.
- There is a need to find new parishioners to serve on the Pastoral and Finance Councils.
- There has been some water damage to a ceiling in the Convent, which is being repaired.
- Anita Siegfriedt suggested that we plan a big event just after Labor Day to welcome our parishioners back, and to remind them that they are loved and appreciated as part of the Annunciation family. The pastoral council will discuss this at our next meeting.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be on Tuesday, July 20th at 7 pm.

The meeting was ended with a prayer by Monsignor Mellone at 8:04 pm. Following the meeting, Art gave the council members a tour through the construction site.