

Holy Redeemer by The Sea Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting
March 9, 2022

Minutes, approved 3/23/2022

In Attendance:

Council Members: Matt Brauer, Wendy Flores, Pete Markland, Linda Palombo, David Prentice, Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Susan Silbernagel.

Staff: Father Bill Walsh, osfs, Father John Hanley, osfs, Tim Gregory, Val Cummings, Marian Sciacchitano, Patti Hess

Unable to attend: Kris Felthousen, Mark Preisser, Jim Watters

Opening Prayer: Father Bill opened the meeting with prayer at 5:16 p.m.

Welcome Back: Father Bill thanked both the Pastoral Council members and staff members for their commitments to serve and welcomed everyone back.

Pastor's Comments:

Father Bill read the Preamble to the Constitution, refreshing the purpose of the Council as consultative, rather than legislative, for the continued good of the Parish. He turned over the meeting to Val Cummings and Marian Sciacchitano for discussion on the Holy Father's Global Synod and a CARA proposal, and our possible response under the Pastoral Council leadership.

Synod: Val Cummings explained the Synod listening process proposed by the Holy Father. His hope is that the needs of those on the journey of faith will be expressed, collected, and forwarded to him for consideration. Step one was to respond to the Pope's Online Survey by Feb. 28. Marian Sciacchitano and Susan Silbernagel participated, as did about 6,000 people across the Diocese. Each parish is encouraged to form their own response to the Synod following very specific guidelines established by the Global Synod Organization and the American Bishops. Additionally, the Diocese is hosting 8 'listening sessions' (4 English, 4 Spanish) across the Diocese. Susan Silbernagel has been invited to participate in the one scheduled for Elizabeth City. Ideas surfaced at the Parish and Diocesan levels will be forwarded to the American Synod Committee and ultimately the

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International (Papal) Committee, and need to be submitted by June. The Council members were provided with a QR code to access more information on the format and goals of the Synod.

CARA – The second topic covered was the invitation sent to the Parish by CARA (The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate). This research group operates out of Georgetown University and researches and analyzes situations occurring within the Catholic Church. Since Holy Redeemer by the Sea Parish has participated in CARA studies in the past, we have been invited to be part of this paid study on the effect of Covid 19 on the Church. It is a 4 year project with a stipend of \$2500 for participants paid in installments. While this study is valuable to the Church as a whole, it may also prove worthwhile for assessing our own post Covid situation. March 31 is the deadline for accepting the invitation. The Council Members were again supplied with a QR code linking to more information.

Both the Synod listening process and the CARA study might benefit from an APP called Mentimeter that Fr. John recently used at the Diocesan Priests' listening session. It immediately tabulates, prioritizes and displays survey responses. Fr. John stated that the app was very easy to use and may help get a wider survey base with better interpreted results.

The council members expressed a desire for time to research these two projects to determine if one or both are feasible undertakings for our Parish under their leadership. Their conclusions will be discussed in two weeks at a meeting called specifically for this purpose.

OTHER BUSINESS

Due to changes in life situations, the Pastoral Council has lost some members and could use to replace at least one person. We also need to appoint a new recorder for writing the minutes of each session. Suggestions for either can be made to Father Bill.

Father Bill thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

March Meeting: The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be March 23, 5:15 pm, during which our response to the Synod and the CARA project will be discussed.

The meeting was closed at 6:30 pm with a prayer by Father Bill.