

Nativity Parish Council ZOOM Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021

Mission Statement: *Nativity is a diverse and inclusive Catholic Faith Community on Detroit's eastside dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel and sharing God's love through commitment to social justice, service to the neighborhood, the community, and each other.*

PRESENT: Mark Miller, Maura Corrigan, Sr. Marcia Haggins, Kimberly Milligan, Judy Dupre, Denise Stambaugh, Charvala Adams, Hermenia Adams, Michele Johnston, Deborah Fish and Michele Bezel.

Parish Staff: Brother Ray Stadmeyer, Fran Carnaghi and Chris McLaughlin.

Absent: Wiley Adams (working) Mashauna Adams (working)

Via Telephone:

- Opening Prayer – Fran opened the meeting at 7:04 pm with a prayer.

- **Commission Reports**

Christian Service – Maura – food pantry. In November, we served 81 Households and 273 people. The pantry was closed 2 Thursdays during November due to Thanksgiving and a possible COVID exposure. In December, we served 231 Households and fed 816 people. This includes families who came to the pantry as well as those who participated in the Christmas Program.

St. Vincent de Paul Program provided rent assistance, utility payments to enable families to remain on the LSP Program and also assisted families with information on getting help for themselves. The Pantry has many calls from people who didn't need help before and didn't know where to go or how to begin to get help.

The Christmas Program was a great success due to the unbelievable generosity of many people. Each family received gifts, food and additional gift cards. We provided for about 100 families and for over 350 children. When the family registered, they were asked what would help their household to run smoother? Most asked for cleaning supplies and we did provide about 50 buckets of said items. The other main item was bath towels and we were able to provide at least 25 families with new towels for the entire family. Other items requested were pots and pans, toasters, blenders, a vacuum, dishes, silverware, a shower curtain and a bath rug. Anne stated that she was able to take advantage of the Pre-Thanksgiving sales and Black Friday sales and buy these household items, due to early donations of gift cards and gift cards which were donated too late to be used in 2019. Anne said that there was a lot of online shopping ahead of time so that things could be shipped to her home and they could start packaging them up for the various families. She also did store pickups and with the help of her family members, were able to do a lot of work from home.

Anne wishes to acknowledge Kim Milligan and Norma Danzie for all their work on the Christmas Program. They began setting things up on December 3rd. Kim helped with shopping and organized and packed for families, on the weekends. Norma matched gloves and hats for the gift bags and kept the tables of clothing organized. Michele Johnson also came to assist one evening. Volunteers were kept to a minimum due to

COVID. Without all of this help, we would not have been ready for the December 14th distribution date. The pickups by families ran smoothly, thanks to all of the help. Fran noted that others worked hard, as there were crews to load, deliver and pick up donations. There were also many phone calls between the Church and the families. She noted how hard Tony worked during the weeks. Suburban parishes were very helpful with their gifts and many people from St. Charles adopted families. There were a number of people who adopted families. We kept asking for gift cards and also received \$4,500 in cash donations. People were very, very generous. Some suburban parishes have helped us for a long time and other parishes help due to an acquaintance with someone in our parish. The Class of 1967 from Nativity, made donations. Fran pointed out that it takes a Village.

Education - Deborah Fish reported for Joni Scott. At the beginning of December, Joni sent out flyers regarding Advent to the Sunday School Families and also a reminder of the upcoming meeting dates for them. On December 6th and 9th, she emailed about the upcoming Holidays and noted some activities which would be taking place. Joni also advised the families of the dates for the January classes, Martin Luther King Day and the fact that both Nativity and St. Charles teens were going to make care packages for distribution. This event is going to be highlighted in the Detroit Catholic Magazine and they will be interviewing 3 of St. Charles' teens.

Evangelization – The Committee has resumed monthly meetings as of January. Two book study groups have completed their sharing sessions. The other two did not begin due to the pandemic. There will be follow with those who signed up to determine if there is interest to start utilizing Zoom.

New Parish Member Welcome Packages are complete but have been on hold. The Committee agreed to move forward with these packets, adding a note that volunteer sign up is temporarily on hold due to the pandemic. The packages will be assembled and provided to the Parish Office.

They also agreed to move forward with the proposed new weekly church bulletin template. Now may be an opportune time since it is being distributed by email and posted online. The Committee will have the template for the Council's review very soon.

Nativity is included in The Family of Parishes Wave 1 that begins July 1, 2021. The AOD information on this topic will be reviewed by the committee members for awareness only.

The Journey with Jesus talks will resume at a date to be determined using Zoom. There will continue to be three speakers, for a total time limit of one hour. The Committee will continue to consider other ways to use social media.

The committee would like to formalize the process for them to call parish members not attending Mass, especially during the pandemic. The Council gave their support.

Finance/Stewardship – We are at the end of our 2nd Quarter for the Fiscal Year which began July, 1, 2020. For this 2nd quarter ending in December, we received \$31,017 in Offertory collections for a total of \$68,338 for the first half of the fiscal year. We are about \$4,400 below what was budgeted. While we are a little below budget, people have been very generous. The Christmas collection brought in an additional \$30,729. Also, many people donated to our Christmas Program directly and that was \$5,790. These numbers do not include the many gift cards people donated or those that adopted individual families in need. People have been very generous and we thank everyone who continues to give, either in the Sunday collection, through the mail or on-line.

The CSA goal is \$15,827, with \$11,184 paid to date and \$1,246 still being paid in pledges. Our projection is that we will be \$3,397 below our goal. There was an inquiry as to whether or not we could give on the website. Chris stated that this ability to give was on the website, but is not any longer. We will investigate and try to get this corrected. Chris reminded us that for Christmas, you can only give 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after. It was noted that we did not speak about this Campaign at all and we should bring it up as a reminder to the people that they can still give until about the end of April. Mark suggested that for next year, we make sure we have the ability to give on the website.

Social – No meeting.

Worship – Judy – no meetings.

- **Pastor's Report**

Brother Ray has tried to contact Jesse Cox again for some talks during Lent, but has not heard back. Brother Ray would also like to do a Reconciliation Service in the afternoon, during Lent. He is amazed at the number of people coming to Mass each week. There have been a lot of people from St. Bonaventure. Brother Ray feels that people are looking for Churches and services which “speak to them”.

Family of Parishes – The Pastors have not met yet so things will remain the same for now unless someone gets ill or something else changes. It appears to be a given that Msgr. Trapp will be the Moderator for our parishes and he doesn't seem to want a great deal of change at this point in time. Carol Fratinni retired from her position of Bookkeeper for the Parish and John Lynch, son of former parishioners, Leila and Ray Lynch, was hired. John has worked as a consultant and helped set things up in the new On the Rise Bakery. Brother Ray said that John is easygoing, but competent and feels he will be a positive influence on us. The job is just a few hours per week. We will celebrate Carol's service after COVID is over.

- **Old Business**

Parish Bulletin – Hermenia covered this in her Evangelization report.

Web Site: Fran stated we are averaging 2000 people a week watching our livestream Mass. This is great evangelization. She said she hopes to finalize an improved website

with an appointment this coming Friday. Then, after next week, we should have a new website in a couple of weeks. Fran is reaching out to Commission Members to get updates for the website and Carolyn Sutton is taking some pictures for the website, including one of Brother Ray. We are making progress and almost there.
CSA – covered above.

- **New Business:**

Plans for 2021: What should we be doing? Fran feels that after watching the News, people are fearful and perhaps we could use technology and start a special Prayer Initiative. We could bring some focus to the importance of prayer due to fear of violence. Could we do a Parish Zoom Meeting? There is power in prayer being done by a number of people at the same time. Maybe we could do Zoom with a Live Stream. Charvala stated that we can do up to 100 people now and with an upgrade, up to 500 people. Maura asked about a 24 hour prayer line/group, prior to the 20th – The Inauguration. Hermenia noted that we currently have an Intercessory Prayer Group who does this from 9pm Friday nights to 9am Saturday mornings, every week. Maura wants to know more) and it was suggested that a note reminding people of the Prayer Warriors, be placed in the bulletin. Michele Johnston said that the Teens do a rosary every Wednesday night. Joni Scott runs this event and Michele will tell her people are interested and she can include them in the Zoom link. Michele said the rosary is very calming in the midst of a frantic week. Fran suggested that the Parish Team take on setting something up, with the help of the Liturgy Committee. We will have to move rapidly, however. Hermenia wanted all to know that she loved the Advent Program.

Prayer Leaders for next meeting – Judy will Open and Michele Bezel will close.

- **Check Out** - John McKenzie died, son of Louise and Bob. He is down in Nevada, but we will have a Memorial Mass at a later time. Hermenia noted that Carolyn Sutton does a tremendous job with maintaining the Nativity Facebook site. If you go to this site, the Mass comes up. Fran wants all to know how supportive the parish is and how positive and grateful the Parish Team is to all of us for what we are trying to do. Pat Wimble is back and that is good news. Judy Dupre is doing well after her surgery. Maura had good news, stating that religious services will be in the jail system by February 1st, thanks to many people working for this to occur. She also said that Catholic Charities has helped a good deal. Brother Ray has helped a great deal on the homeless front. Thank you to Parish Staff and Annie who have done more this year due to the COVID experience. We are truly appreciative. Mark thanked Brother Ray and the Liturgy persons who handle the Masses. Everything is great.
- **Closing Prayer** – The meeting ended at 7:58pm with a prayer by Michele Johnston.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen White

