

**St. Monica Parish
Annual General Meeting via Zoom
Thu. June 4, 2020
Minutes**

Present:

Fr. Frank Brewer, Fr. Charles Orchard, Janice Pilgrim, Robella Foliet, Frank Silva, Dn. Tom Cuddihy, Cyril & Geetha Nair, Michael McCallen, Jean-Daniel Chouloute, Gianna Crupi, Mary & David Walker, Joseph Stanford, John O'Halloran, Dn Ray Lamarche, Heidi Desrochers, Peter Ruiter, Doreen & Fern Corriveau, James Albert, Tim Norris, Les ?

1) Welcome, introductions and prayer - Fr. Frank

Fr. Frank took a few minutes to explain Zoom to those in attendance and then opened the meeting with a prayer.

2) Brief review of the Pastoral Year - Fr. Frank

Review of staffing. We have three part-time employees on staff in the office, Janice Pilgrim, Milva Calla and Robella Folliet. John Streng is on contract and Fr. Tavis asked for leave in January. We were joined by Fr. Charles Orchard in February and his term with us has been extended until June 2021.

Land – what we had been promised did not come to be so we are continuing to look. On a positive note, the NCC seems to be a bit more willing to discuss matters but nothing ever happens quickly with the NCC. We are also looking at a few other possibilities. As far as the Diocese is concerned, the topic of the west end study of parishes is back. The future of some of the very small parishes in this area must be looked at carefully.

3) Remarks - Fr. Charles

Happy to be continuing on at St. Monica and St. Andrew. He announced that he just celebrated 25 years a priest yesterday. Feels as if he was just beginning to get to know people in both parishes and then the shutdown happened. He continued his work with RCIA catechumens and is hoping that they will be baptized in September. At this time he works on the mid-week reflections and providing music for the Sunday liturgy.

4) Finance Council Report - Michael McCallen

FY19 Performance to plan (members of the finance council, Fr. Frank, Robella, Peter Ruiter, Frank Silva, Shawn Lyver, Tim Norris and Michael McCallen

The committee review finances every month, quarterly and yearly. Prior to Covid-19, we were pretty consistent in our forecasting. The fact that we were prudent in the past five years and banked some money will be really helpful to get through the downturn that has happened in the last few months.

2019 positive cash flow . We exceeded in the collection side.

Expenses:

One of the biggest disappointments for the Finance Committee is that a position for a part-time person to work with the youth of the parish has not yet been filled. We had set aside funds for this.

Major projects completed; automatic front door opener, staining of the carpet around the altar, energy saving lights, outside (See the Summary Financial Report).

We would like to embark in a formal study for disabled access to basement hall.

Financial Year 2020 Plan Pre-Covid 19

Small increase forecasted, flat on revenue side, increase in expenses (Fr. Charles will cost us more), hiring of youth minister. We were planning on being flat for the year and not generate any net income.

Identified items that need to be done.

Repairs on the front stairs of the church for safety purposes – done

drywall in office space and basement over duct work – delayed

install new kitchen and paper storage cabinets in office/kitchen, paint wooden frame – delayed

Disability access to church hall – the topic was raised at 2018 AGM. Important topic and will be a costly project. Once you begin making changes, everything needs to be brought up to code (right now we are grandfathered). In 2020, finance committee decided that we needed a formal study of this entire topic. Need to identify a champion for this project.

Effects of Covid 19

The majority of our expenses remain. We need to encourage people to remain generous. CEWS (75% wage subsidy) application has been made with the Archdiocese. This may return to St. Monica around \$8000. Please note, priests' salaries have been cut by 15% during this time.

Our parishioner contributions were May down by 50%. We did receive loan interest from the Diocese and HST rebate during this month which help keep us steady. Revenue is down in terms of donations but we have other things that came in.

Ask of the parish that those who can contribute a little more during this hard time. We have put things in the bulletin and the website but there are plans to appeal to people to contribute in other ways.

From April to June the committee anticipate a small deficit.

Michael expressed his thanks to the members of the finance committee for their work.

5) The Way Forward

Office closed but staff has continued working from home. This does present some challenges but trying to make it work and maintain some services to parishioners.

Significant changes in the Archdiocese. The amalgamation of the two dioceses of Ottawa and Cornwall which goes from Pakenham to Cornwall will now be known as the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. Replacement has been announce for AB Prendergast. Coajutor Archbishop Marcel Damphousse, will be his successor but will work with Archbishop Prendergast until his retirement which is expected at the end of the calendar year. Fr. Sean Wegner CC is now the Episcopal Vicar.

What is upcoming with the Diocese – some of the changes planned (or being considered) may be accelerated.

Regarding when we can return to Masses, the Bishops of Ontario are in consultations with the province. First and foremost is to keep parishioners and priests safe. What we do know is the nature of the risk – people who have no symptoms can still have Covid-19 and the wearing of masks is very important to protect other people. A group of people sitting together for an extended period of time is considered a high risk activity – Mass is in that category. Those with health issues (high risk) will need to stay away. All parish events that usually take place during the summer months have been cancelled at the instruction of the Diocese.

What will we do;

- Continue webcast
- If the number of people who gather together are relaxed, we may be able to add readers. There will be no Masses open to the public before July.
- Start opening with small groups baptism, funerals maybe daily Mass.
- Reserving seat – how, computer reservation system, calling office, need someone at the door to verify.
- Need extra volunteers – door, sanitizing pews and everything,
- Music – smaller groups, perhaps just a couple
- Communion – likely not in the mouth.
- What about children
- How do we enter the church – one door in, one door out???

At this moment there are too many unknowns and we need to be patient.

We may need to maintain or explore using technology for a longer period of time i.e. online Alpha program

Questions

Will St. Monica have Mass in the parking lot? - No. Even the cars would need to park every second spot and people would have to stay in them with the windows closed

Outdoor Mass – no, logistical nightmare.

When can we have funerals – waiting for the government to loosen the number of people that gather

When can we have Communion? We don't know.

Mary Walker – Can we encourage more people to make use of automatic withdrawals/Direct Deposit? Fr. Frank - yes it has been in the bulletin and on the website. Also said a letter will be going out. Mentioned that St. Andrew is looking at a phone type of app to help with this.

Frank Silva – When can we go to Confession?

Fr. Frank explained about a priest in the diocese who is doing confessions in his car. We are starting to book appointments for confessions like this. Email the priest directly, or call and leave a message. You must be physically present to make a Confession – no Zoom.

Tim Norris – This meeting has been helpful but he is feeling somewhat disconnected from the parish. Can an email be sent out to groups of parishioners, explaining some of the topics explained tonight. Fr. Frank interjected that bulletin is sent out, weekly and also on the website. We will also post this meeting to YouTube next week (unfortunately it did not record)

6)Concluding remarks and prayer

Fr. Frank did a wrap-up of the meeting and invited Fr. Charles to do the closing prayer.

The Summary Financial Report for 2019 will be given in a separate document