

Saint Mary Parish
Franklin, MA
Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes: June 8, 2021

Present: Father Brian Manning, Pastor; Father Jack Sullivan, Parochial Vicar; Karen Ackles, Religious Education Director; Terry Kerr, Director of Music; Deacon Guy

Council Members: Paula Coughlin, Ed Croak, John Determan, Christopher Feeley, Faith Flaherty, Paula Marano, Lorraine Schratz, Mike Swan, Roberta Trahan

Welcome: The meeting was opened by Roberta Trahan who welcomed all members

Prayer: the opening prayer from Book of Blessings was read by Roberta Trahan

Report of our Parish: Father Brian reports:

- His formal letter of Reappointment as our Pastor arrived at the end of May. We are all very happy for Father's reappointment!

Transition Plans

- Early Pandemic: Father acknowledged that folks have experienced trauma from the Pandemic in various ways; families have been disrupted, rituals have been changed. We will move slowly and carefully.
- Father expressed his sincere thanks to those parishioners who were able to put aside their own concerns for safety and step forward to assist with the early Pandemic: Ambassadors, Eucharistic Ministers, Lecturers: we owe them a debt of gratitude.
- Attendees were cooperative and respectful
- Attendance is increasing; Father is monitoring this; the weekend of June 19th/20th will end our dispensation to attend weekly Mass; our obligation to attend will resume
- There is still some instability in the Pandemic; folks should make decisions based on their personal needs
- Kudos to Terry Kerr: parishioners have stated that the ability to receive Holy Eucharist and Music have been so very important

- Religious Education: Parent wide survey revealed that most are happy to teach their children remotely with the assistance of the books.
- Mass schedule will redevelop as needed and will regrow as appropriate
- Funerals will resume fully in the Fall; streaming will likely continue to allow for those who cannot attend to be able to do so
- Weddings are returning as venues open up
- Baptisms will resume in the Fall
- We have learned lessons from the Pandemic; it will likely take a full year to come out of it; constant slow growth will be our approach

Personnel

- New Secretary position: 40 hours; came from Scituate, has good working knowledge; she will be home based on Fridays; Mon-Thurs in office 6 hours
- Pastoral Associate: reviewing applicants; as we recall, Deacon Stephen has gone to Westwood as their Manager
- Father Frank Campo has retired and is in residence at Saint Mary's! He will assist as needed. He has been welcomed 'back' to his first 'home' as a priest.

201 Main Street Patrimony

- Patrimony: we will resume discussions in the Fall; where do we go next?

Update Collaborative Plan

- Father will review and update this summer
- Summarize this year
- Delayed because of Pandemic
- Focus on vocations, welcoming parishioners

It is hoped that our next meeting will be in person as it will be more conducive to our discussions. These meetings will continue at 7 pm on Tuesdays, Paula Marano will get School Committee Tuesdays to me so that we can avoid meetings on those Tuesdays.

Closing Prayer: Father Jack led us in our closing prayer.

Have a safe and restful summer!
Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Trahan