

**Ave Maria Parish**  
*Parish Pastoral Council*

**Date of Meeting:** *April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021*  
**Minutes Prepared by:** *Kate McGrath*

**Time:** *7:00pm – 7:30pm*  
**Location:** *Online ~ Zoom*

**Present:** Fr. Paul Ritt, Fr. Tony Luongo, John Lozada, Eric Rich, Marie Lagman, Patty Glennon, John DiBello, Tony Della Piana

### **Agenda and Notes**

- **Gathering and Welcome:**

John Lozada opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

- **Opening Prayer:**

Fr. Paul led the opening prayer.

- **Acceptance of Minutes:**

Minutes from the March 8<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Council meeting were accepted.

- **Pastor's Report:**

- **Archdiocesan Updates: Protocols:**

**Communion Visits:** Parishes are now allowed to resume normal frequency of Communion calls. Communion visits must be brief. Minister visiting must be fully vaccinated.

**Congregational Singing:** Looking forward to resuming congregational singing in the near future.

**Church Capacity:** Church capacity has been extended from 120 to 150 people. Persons from the same household must remain seated close together and space given between different household groups.

**Safety Precautions:** All other safety precautions remain the same: including masks being worn, temperature checks, and contact tracing lists. There has been no additional guidance for faith formation – either for child or adult.

- **Projects at churches:**

Several projects going on at both churches.

- At SMG, construction of choir closet and shrine are finished. Statue for the shrine is due to arrive in May. Fr. Tony received renderings from an artist. Behind the statue will be a mountain scene (Italian Alps) and side walls will feature two symbols of the life of the Saint. Hope is to have Cardinal Sean here in the Fall to bless the space at SMG. The project has been donated in full by parishioners. Neither parish funds nor Inspiring Hope Campaign money was used. Also, front stairs at SMG are in need of repair. Hope is to finish that repair this summer. Bid is expected within coming weeks.

- At OLA, Audrey, J.J., and Fr. Paul met with church architect re: various updating needs at OLA, including lighting, decluttering sanctuary space, moving music/choir to assembly level, refinishing pews, new carpets, etc. Test was done to see if there is asbestos in the flooring and there is not.
- At both churches, a well-functioning Wi-Fi is needed. This year has taught all of us many things re: good communication – which demands decent Wi-Fi/internet connection.
- Doors at the office are also in need of repair. Paul DiBiase has helped with the bid and process to follow/repair doors.

- **Media Ministry**

- **Needs:** Marie shared with the council updates re: Media Ministry, including important needs:

- **Wi-Fi:** Improved Wi-Fi connection at both churches is needed. This year has shown need for better internet, with the needs to stream events (from church to school) and requests from families to stream funerals, etc.
- **Virtual Offerings:** This year a significant part of media ministry has been virtual offerings – all a collaboration between media ministry, music ministry and pastoral ministry.
- **Website/Social Media:** Website offerings have expanded, through a collaboration of media ministry, music ministry and pastoral ministry. Website now has resources on Grief and Loss, Health and Wellness, Prayer/Devotions, Music. A new offering will be Spotify. Marie is working with the Digital Initiative Group to see if Spotify can be embedded on the website. Music offerings include seasonal lists, lists for prayer and meditation, lists for sacramental celebrations, etc. With the limited number of events taking place in the churches due to COVID, there have been limited photo opportunities; however, photos from the Triduum have been posted, photos from Baptisms have been posted, and effort has been in filling in space with important articles, resources, etc. on social media.
- **Investments:** Throughout the pandemic, virtual offerings have been a primary way of connecting with parishioners. Small investments such as stalk videos, photo libraries, etc. have been an asset, though currently purchased by staff independently. Moving forward, these small investments by the parish would be a great asset, including a dedicated camera to have at the churches, tri-pods to have available, etc. Larger investments, such as music systems and resources for the hearing impaired would be of great benefit too.
- **Questions:** Question raised was whether projector at OLA was connected to Wi-Fi issue. Projector and use of it is not connected to Wi-Fi, but the last time it was used, it was on it's way out. The projector works at times and has been used for certain Masses, primarily school Masses to project words/hymns. A significant part of making use of the resources that we do

have is having the volunteers/people available. Volunteers are needed to support the ministry. At both churches, ideal would be to have two projectors each. At SMG, there would be the need to repaint the walls or have retracting screens.

- **Gratitude:** Gratitude was expressed to Marie for all of the work that she has done. The Ministry needs to expand and is not a one-person ministry. Volunteers are needed. The ministry is important for evangelization and the parish community. Fr. Paul underscored the need for volunteers who participate regularly and actively. Marie needs people who will assist her and help her to grow the ministry. It is not a ministry that can be done solo.

- **Parish Ministries**

- **Faith Formation:**

- **SMG:** All classes for Faith Formation ended on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Reconciliation for Grade 2 is scheduled for Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and First Holy Communion celebrations are scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. A handful of students have chosen to have individual Communion at a regularly scheduled Mass. The registration period is closed for next year. 85% of families are registered. Robyn is working with the Dalton Family to plan a 5K in Memory of Michael Dalton. This year all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders participated in a virtual 5K for the Michael Dalton Foundation. The goal is to extend and invite all families and residents.
- **OLA:** Classes for Faith Formation in-person ended on Palm Sunday and the Monday following. Home school work was due during Holy Week. Our Grade 2 students celebrated their First Reconciliation this past Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. And we are looking forward to the First Communion celebration on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9am.
- **Adult Faith Formation:**  
*RCIA:* Kate is working with Maria Gagnon, Andrea Gagnon, Piri Collard and Tony Della Piana to form RCIA team. One woman who has already been baptized is interested in the possibility of becoming Catholic. Group will be working with her over the summer. Also, a 10 y/o and his mother inquired about the RCIA. The child has not yet been baptized. It is possible that he will go through the RCIA adapted for children.  
*Adult Confirmation:* Two individuals from the parish will be confirmed on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> by Bishop Mark at St. Theresa's. Tony Della Piana, Deacon Tom O'Shea, and Kate worked with these individuals.  
*Adult Faith Formation (General):* During the summer, schedule will be made of activities so planning can begin early. There has been a great collaboration between media ministry and music ministry this year.

- **Baptism Ministry:** Baptism Ministry is taking shape with a number of volunteers (couples from the parish who assist/support clergy at baptisms).

- **Parish Nurse Ministry:** We have an RN who has inquired about Parish Nurse Ministry – something that we are trying to develop and would like to expand. Volunteers are needed.
- **OLA School:**
  - **School Update:**
    - **Value Proposition:** Current project for board has been formulating a values proposition: “*This is why you should come to OLA.*” Proposition has to be formulated according to the Healey Foundation model.
    - **School Board:** Eric Rich noted the School Board is a great group of people. He noted Len does a great job. Board is now a decision making board. School is doing well, with numbers that have not been seen in a while.
- **Safety Committee:**
  - **Easter:** Safety Committee was present at all Easter Masses, which was a tremendous help, especially for crowd control. Attendance numbers have not been an issue at regular weekend Masses; however, were at Easter Masses – where parish had the largest numbers of people present.
  - **Weekend Masses:** This past Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday, total was about 350. Past weekends have been at about 250. It has been good to see parishioners interchange between the two churches. Question raised re: seating. As increased capacity is allowed and more people return to church, how will parishioners and guests be accommodated. Discussed it is basic hospitality to move over and allow space for another. At OLA, there is the benefit of the chapel area.
- **Open Items:**
  - **General Observations:** Meeting was open for feedback/observations due to time remaining. Observations noted included Communion procession and hand sanitizer stations. Concern was raised re: post-pandemic attendance and revenue. Discussed that there is no way attendance as it was before the pandemic will return to “normal.” Mass online, while a comfort and benefit, has also offered a convenience – which will affect in-person attendance. All-the-more reason for parishioners to remain active and involved and supportive of ministries in parishes.

**Date of Next Meeting:** *May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021*  
**Closing Prayer:** *Fr. Tony*

**Time of Next Meeting:** *7:00pm*  
**Location:** *Online - Zoom Meeting*