

St. Leo Parish Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 2021

Present: Father Grosso, Denise Esposito, Christine Green, Marie Cordeiro, Sandy Schwoerer, Mike Nicholson, Carol Kennedy, John Kennedy, Joe Baranowski, Chip Howe, Anthony Marsella, Ann Hogan and Raffaele Iovieno.

Meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconference.

Mike Nicholson called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Fr. Grosso opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Comments

- Fr. Grosso reported that the parish is making preparations for Holy Week – 50 additional spots for parishioners will be available beginning on Palm Sunday and beyond. Father has a meeting with the Bishop this week to discuss Holy Week and the ACA.
- Reservations will be accepted for Palm Sunday on the Thursday prior and beginning Monday the 29th for Holy Week and Easter.
- Father has spoken with the Fair chairpeople, Marcia Mandi and Joe Esposito. An official decision has not been made as of yet on whether or not the Fair will be held – the decision will be announced May 1st. If the Fair is held some adjustments will be made to ensure the safety of all and that the event is profitable for the parish.
- St. Leo is at 14% of its ACA goal. This is just a little behind last year. There will be no in-pew solicitation this year. The big 'push' will be after Easter.

Reports

Committee Reports

Youth Group

- Denise Esposito reported that the group has met several times outside – there are roughly 10-12 committed youth.

Seniors

- No report but as always Father asked that we remember to keep all the members in our prayers.

Social Concerns

- Carol Kennedy reported that the spring food drive was a big success and thanked Vicki Roti for her hard work in pulling it all together. There were non-stop donations as cars pulled up and completely stocked up the New Covenant House van. Thank you to all.
- A clothing drive will be held on Saturday, April 24th from 9am until 12 pm. Person to Person will have their van on site – there will be specific sorting and labeling instructions to ensure safety.
- The Social Concerns group is still providing lunch once a month and is ready to ramp up to more frequently (3x a month is ideal) once volunteers are ready to come assist. Father Grosso said that when they are ready the parish is ready to help as always.

Ex Officio Reports

Religious Education

- Denise Esposito reported that First Communion classes are moving along fine – First Communion will be two Masses on May 1st.
- First Reconciliation will be held on March 22nd.
- Classes are wrapping up soon after a successful year.

Music Ministry/Liturgy

- Denise Esposito reported that the reservation system for Masses is going well and reminded the council that seating everyone in assigned seats can take three days so please reserve early to help her
- Denise and Alma are preparing for Holy Week and Easter – it will be different than past years but at least this year we can be together!

New Business and Miscellany

John Kennedy asked Father Grosso if St. Leo will be taking part in the new ‘Ambassador’ program that the diocese has put together. Father said he has read about it and is awaiting specifics. John also asked if it was possible to put a link to Bishop Caggiano’s Pastoral Exhortation on the website – both the written version and the spoken word. All agreed that that would be an effective way of publicizing it.

In response to John’s points, Father Grosso conveyed that all the pastors’ main concern is to bring people back to church. He feels strongly that once people can physically come back as a community the parish will be able to build back up. He once again reminded the Council that St. Leo is in better shape than many if not most parishes thanks to our sound financial status, the dedicated employees and the devoted parishioners.

Finally, the Council once again visited the notion of using Flocknote as a great communication tool to effectively and efficiently reach the parishioners. Father said that he does like the idea of Flocknote and all that it can do and once St. Leo reaches 50% of its pre-pandemic attendance figure he would be happy to publicize it at Mass.

Father Grosso led all in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm and the next meeting date was set for Monday, April 19th at 7:30pm once again via Zoom conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Green
Council Secretary