

Parish Council of St. Charles Borromeo, Resurrection, and All Saints

Minutes of the meeting held via ZOOM on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

President Garner called the meeting to order, and Frank opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present were:

<u>Ex Officio</u>	<u>Parish Representatives</u>
Fr Timothy Wiggins	Deborah Garner, President
Fr George Okeahialam	Renell Grant, Vice President
Fr Thomas Fenlon	Carolyn McBain
Deacon Kenneth Radcliffe	Frank Mendez
Deacon Rodney Beckford	Gwen Miller
Deacon Michel Hodge	Harris Adolph
Sr Dorothy Hall, Pastoral Associate	Joy DeAbreu
Ron Lawson, Trustee	Paulette Nixon
Lakia Lewis, Communications Director	Paul Tchamambe
Natalia Rodriguez, School Principal	Christine Whelan, Secretary

Absent were:

April Jeffries

Annie Peña

Meeting Summary

- **Assessing the seating arrangements:**
 - In view of the receding of the virus, the revised guidelines for New York City, and the instructions from the Archdiocese, the present members unanimously agreed to the following new protocols for Mass beginning March 27 (Gaudete Sunday) for both St Charles and Resurrection:
 - All pews will be available for seating; the cordons will be removed. Parishioners are encouraged to social distance as possible.
 - Masks will be required in all sections except for the narrow section to the far left at both churches. At St Charles, masks will also be required for the section adjacent to the altar, to protect the priests and others serving at Mass.
 - Temperature checks and hand sanitizing will continue as all enter Mass.

- **How do we wish to proceed with the reopening of the Parish (in stages, ministries, groups, etc)?**
 - The Council decided to wait until after the high holydays (Easter) to consider any further reopening. Our next meeting will be devoted to establishing reopening procedures. We anticipate a high probability of reopening widely at that time (with the understanding we will still adhere to CDC and Archdiocesan guidelines).
 - We recommend ministries that are meeting on Zoom maintain themselves on that platform and prepare themselves for the June calendar meeting for planned meetings and events to be scheduled for the calendar year. Covid safety protocols will need to be developed for in-person meetings. Additionally, Fr Wiggins advised he will have to ensure adequate staff is in place to handle the logistics of reopening.
 - Sales of tickets by various groups and ministries will not be permitted in person until further reopening, to avoid having people gather in a small space to purchase. Suggestions for other ways to handle ticket sales included: online sales or auctions; fund-raising sales for later holidays (eg Mother's Day or Father's Day baskets)
 - Deacon Hodge advised he would make plans to meet with RCIA candidates elsewhere.

- **Remarks from Renell Grant (Vice President):**
 - Renell reminded the members that Council members should communicate to parishioners with one voice. Parish decisions are made at the Council level, and those decisions are what should be communicated.
 - Listening to the concerns of the parishioners is paramount, and those concerns should be brought back to the Council for discussion and decisions. It is fine to advise parishioners that you share their concerns (if you do), and that you will get back to them.

- **New Business:**
 - **Reminder: 4/15/22 - Good Friday (SCB, English). Leaders: Parish Council-Papal Stations 2:00 pm**
 - Deborah requested that all Council members attend if they are able.
 - Deacon Beckford clarified that "papal stations" refers to the guidebook used for Good Friday and not the stations led in person by the Pope.

- o **Where is our Mission Statement** written by Fr. Chisholm and the PC?
 - Frank advised we should propagate the message to parishioners so we can live up to what we say.
 - Fr Wiggins advised he has not had time to review and understand the statement thoroughly, and that he will work with a few parishioners to review and refine the statement.

- **Old Business:** None

- **Other Business:**
 - o Fr Fenlon is seeking Spanish-speaking candidates for the Director of Music position at Resurrection. Will lead the Spanish Choir.
 - o Natalia advised that school is going very well; in particular the students are enjoying building relationships with the priests. Students have been gathering without social distancing, masks optional, with no reported occurrences of Covid. The school has been able to pivot successfully to the new arrangements for the sacraments.
 - o Fr George plans to start a newsletter reporting on religious education at the church and school, with information on how people can get involved.
 - o Sacraments:
 - May 31: Confirmation (with Bishop Espailat)
 - Saturday, June 18: First Communion
 - Holding the event on Saturday will allow the families to attend without overcrowding Sunday Mass.
 - For First Communicants:
 - ◆ March 26: Sacramental retreat
 - ◆ June 4: Reconciliation
 - o Fr George will create a training schedule for altar servers (new and current)

- **Fr Wiggins:**
 - o Father worked with Michele Turnquest on the arrangements for Holy Week; they are also waiting for the Archdiocesan protocols.
 - Palms will be displayed on a table in back of the church; parishioners will take their own.
 - For Holy Thursday, Father is comfortable with the Washing of the Feet.
 - Veneration of the Cross: Two ushers will stand near the Cross with hand sanitizer, so all can sanitize their hands before touching the Cross. Attendees should touch the Cross with their hands only.
 - Holy water will be used for the sprinkling rite.

- o Father has asked John Staton and Edwin Almeida to represent the parish with the Harlem Cluster and the Northern Manhattan Deanery, and for the Synod on Synodality discussions.
 - o Fundraising is going well:
 - The Cardinal's Annual Appeal has raised \$16K to date toward the parish goal of \$64K.
 - The Fuel Collection has raised \$13K to date. The raffle drawing has been postponed to Laetare Sunday to allow additional time for mail delivery.
 - o Father confirmed the Holiday Hills parish outing may take place June 25, since it's an outdoor event.
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- Deacon Beckford offered a closing prayer.