

AOD Community Board
Meeting Minutes, May 16, 2020

Meeting Called to order 8:01 am with Liturgy of the Hours

Attendees: Kevin Breen, Dave Fleming, Kelly Fleming, Bob Gajda, Alan Gwosdz, Dennis Loffreda, Brigid Loffreda, Russ Ortisi, Trish Ortisi, Rick Rhein, Anne Rhein, Skip Rodger,

Russ approved minutes; Trish seconded.

- Kevin reported that the offices have been closed since March 12, for a deep clean, expecting to return on Monday, then came the announcement that everything was shutting down. Chancery has very minimal staff since, accounting and HR. Everyone else is working from home. Erin came back April 1, so that has been a big help.
- Because there is no access to hard copies of docs, the assignment board has been calling Deacons who have assignment changes to get a verbal verification that the paperwork has been turned in. There are seven changes, the rest are renewals. Some requested another location, but there was a need elsewhere, all was agreed to.
- Assignment board wants to gather info in November and meet in December to see where the need will be, they are expecting a number of priests to be retiring.
- Kevin has been doing community calls, checking in on some of the older deacons to make sure things are ok.
- Some good news, Fr. Riccardo and his group will do our convocation.
- There was a plan ready to roll out for inviting men to apply for the Diaconate, led by Mike Stewart, very nice brochure, letters ready to send to pastors requesting they pick out at least two men in their parish and forward info to Kevin's office and they will take it from there.
- The men's retreat in June has been cancelled, the retreat house plans to reopen at the end of June, perhaps we could think about doing some type of virtual meeting? Would be more like a lecture, listening, then perhaps taking a break, sending any questions or comments before the next session? Or having comments section allowed with someone monitoring comments to pass along during the session. Kevin mentioned that meetings with 63 or attendants. Russ mentioned that Amazing Parish had a chat capability, that worked well.
- Also, discussion about perhaps doing some board meetings virtually rather than in person, maybe every other one.
- Next level for some formation students, elevation to Acolyte, any thoughts on live streaming same as it being done for Transitional Deacons and Priest Ordinations. Kevin also mentioned that there were five applicants of which 3 were accepted.
- At this time, the community board will stay status quo, no elections at this time, however, there had been a couple of names given to Kevin back in January for possible elections, we were looking to increase number of members.
- Postponed Meet and Greet, do we try to reschedule in fall, have settled on Saturday, September 12, 2020 (after thought as typing, this could be same day as formation meeting?) Seminary may offer more online classes, therefore allowing better scheduling options at the seminary, allowing for better social distancing. Will need to have food plated or served rather than a buffet.

- Trish reported that Women's Day of Reflection was cancelled, perhaps a virtual day, need to wait at least a month, was suggested at meeting that perhaps waiting until spring of 2021. Also has some concerns about how everything will be handled at parish level.
- Russ discussed the Diaconate website, will send bullet point list of what he will need for document storage to Erin. Would like copies of minutes, latest handbook and directory. Kevin had presented calendar at January meeting of all upcoming events; Russ would like to include on website.

Trish asked if all were comfortable with going back and what everyone was doing.

- Concerns with elderly returning to Mass too soon, would it be possible for Mass to still be livestreamed and those at risk could listen/watch from cars in parking lot, then have Eucharistic ministers go to the parking lots?
- Bob mentioned that his parish may have to move two Masses from four as he needs to find priests for Masses.
- Alan said he is very comfortable with his parish, adding two additional Masses to accommodate fewer people at each Mass
- Kevin reiterated the concern with the elderly not taking advantage of the dispensation from attending Mass until the fall. Also, there should be multiple cups on the altar for each priest and/or deacon serving Mass.
- Dennis has staff meeting on Tuesday, will discuss not returning for an additional two weeks.

Kevin asked for reactions to Clergy newsletter, was info good, timely, too much? Responses were repetitive info, not enough updates. Dave said he was getting the same email multiple times.

Russ motioned to adjourn at 9:12am, Bob seconded.

Next meeting will be July 18, 2020

Following third Saturday as in past, September 19, 2020, November 21, 2020, January 16, 2021.