

AOD Community Board  
Meeting Minutes, July 18, 2020

Meeting Called to order 8:02 am with prayer led by Deacon Steve Morello

Attendees: Jim Berch, Carol Berch, Kevin Breen, Dave Fleming, Kelly Fleming, Bob Gajda, Dennis Loffreda, Brigid Loffreda, Steve Morello, Russ Ortisi, Trish Ortisi, Rick Rhein, Anne Rhein, Skip Rodger,

- Kevin reported that the offices may be open on rotating basis in August, three at a time with proper social distancing within the cubicles. It has been taking twice as long to complete paperwork, some assignment letters have still not gone out. It has been frustrating, but things will get done.
- Seminary is closed to outside events for the remainder of the year, Jubilee may be done at Cathedral, without the usual dinner.
- Ordinations will occur in October, but may be done as priestly ordinations, with limited attendance.
- Family of Parishes is gearing up, Msgr. Halfpenny will be sending out a survey, Kevin asked that we pray over and answer fully and truthfully and return them. We are certainly going through a paradigm change, a good one and one that's needed.
- Deacon Steve Morello, who is working with the committee on Family of Parishes, introduced himself to us as way of background, before presenting the Family of Parishes concepts and responding to any questions.
  - There will be pastoral team, lead by a moderator or senior pastor, titles have not yet been decided as the Governance Committee is still studying the implications of Canon Law, which must be followed.
  - We have 200 freestanding parishes and will go to 60 to 80 families of parishes that will have three to six traditional parishes within them, three or four priests and may a half dozen deacons as well as a number of ecclesial ministers and then other staff. For example, instead of five bookkeepers, there may be only two taking care of the accounts for each parish, with a financial director of one overseeing all. This will help to cut the number of meetings the priests must attend.
  - There are two aspects Deacon Steve discussed, one is Deacon education and training, then benchmarking and best practices.
  - As these aspects grow, there will be a need for additional resources so Deacon Steve is asking for the community board's help.
  - Encounter Grow Witness is a Catholic "chat room" that is moderated to exchange ideas among all people who are involved in public service to the church. There is recently a private site just for Deacons. Deacon Steve would like to use that site to offer concepts and gather the feedback from the Deacons.
  - Collaboration is the key to move forward.
  - Unleash the Gospel is very important to this process as well. Deacon Steve asked that we study the document, pray over it, discuss with our spouses and brother deacons and their spouses.
  - Diaconate has many untapped resources that will provide valuable data and talent.

- Steve provided his email address for further questions and stated that he will come to as many of these meetings as he is invited to.
- We thank Deacon Steve for his presentation and look forward to working with him.

Minutes were approved by Dave Fleming and seconded by Bob Gadjia.

As this meeting was mostly the Family of Parishes presentation, Deacon Kevin suggested that we meet again next month. August 22 at 8am via video conference.

Dave Fleming noted that now may not be the right time for Community Board elections, rather hold as is until we see where the Community Board is needed and how.

Dave Fleming motioned to adjourn, Russ Ortisi seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17am.

Next meeting will be Saturday August 22, 2020 at 8am, followed by September 19, November 21, 2020 and January 16, 2021