



WORD



SACRAMENT



SERVICE

May 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings and blessings as I write this on a very beautiful day and hope you will also get to read it on a beautiful day, even if it is raining.

This is just a very brief summary on what transpired at Parish Council on Tuesday evening, May 9th.

1. Fr. Ray reported that CHAP (Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation) is reviewing our application to replace the old tower louvres with new aluminum ones. If they do not approve the use of aluminum (which would last longer) they will be replaced with wood.
2. By our next meeting we should have a draft budget from the staff and Finance Committee. The budget needs to be approved in June, as our fiscal year begins in July.
3. Elections: As of last Sunday, we had seven nominees for the Parish Council elections. With six vacancies, it is our hope that we will have at least 8 candidates and hopefully more. We have one more week to receive nominations.
4. Constitution Working Group: As you will recall, one of the decisions made during the Parish Council retreat in March was to take on the task of updating the Parish Constitution which hasn't been reviewed in more than 30 years. A working group was formed and gave the Council an update of their discussions and a plan going forward. Most important to note is that they recognized that our Constitution attempts to be a number of things: ways of operating for the Council, ways of operating or governance for the Parish as a whole, and pieces that are like by-laws.

The question was posed as to whether there should be separate and distinct documents. Council was not prepared to make that decision at this meeting but all did agree that a Constitution and By-Laws should be approved by the Parish Community as a whole.

It was decided that most immediately the Working Group would work on those parts that speak directly to the governance and operations of the Council and perhaps those pieces that should be by-laws. We will later determine what will make up a revised Constitution with or without the Council pieces, and how/who should be involved in writing it.

5. At the March retreat, the Council also committed to kicking-off the planning for the Strategic Planning process at the May 9th meeting, and so we did. We have approved a scope of work for a Project Manager who will be a St. V's parishioner. We will be posting that soon with a hope and a prayer that one of us in the community will feel called to take on this role. We have begun to develop criteria for the selection of a consultant to work with us in designing and facilitating the process. The criteria for selection thus far includes:
 1. An understanding of using a synodal process, as well as the current challenges facing the church.
 2. Ability to embrace a synodal process and bring professional best practices in developing a strategic plan.
 3. Preferably local so that there may be a better opportunity for being in relationship with the Parish.
 4. Demonstrated ability/experience in balancing complexity and simplicity and developing a realistic but abbreviated timeframe.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) still needs to be developed for seeking a consultant. No one volunteered to do that, so it may fall on the President to write a first draft.

6. Music: The Council approved a request by the Music Director, Sherry Do, to occasionally throughout the year hire musicians for special liturgies.

Once the full official minutes of the meeting are approved, they will be available on the St. V's website.

I would like to make a special plea here for you to consider nominating yourself or someone else to be a candidate for this year's Parish Council election. It is not a terribly complicated job and doesn't require experience. Yet, it is a very important service to this community. Unfortunately, one nominee has withdrawn, so we are now down to six candidates.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

With gratitude and affection,
Geri Sicola
Parish Council President