

St. Veronica's Pastoral Parish Council
2022 Report

First Parish Assembly: Tuesday, October 12, 2021: The St. Veronica's Pastoral Parish Council ("PPC") hosted the first Parish Assembly on October 12, 2021. The purpose of the gathering was to listen to and obtain information from our parish family, specifically, to gain insight into what our parish family wants, needs and desires from our common faith community. Many suggestions were submitted during the Parish Assembly and were arranged, assessed, prayed over and compiled by the PPC under the guidance and leadership of our Pastor, Father PJ and Parochial Vicar, Fr. Chang.

January 2021 Report to Parish: Due to a COVID resurgence the PPC met via Zoom to discuss the findings from October 12th and three common themes were discerned. They are: (1) Evangelization, (2) Community Outreach and (3) Service. The PPC prayerfully discerned each of these topics over the following months. A spring Parish Assembly was planned, however, due to competing priorities, most notably the Diocesan initiative of the Synod instituted by Pope Francis, the spring Parish Assembly was moved to October 4, 2022, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

March 2022 the PPC provided the Parish Assembly Progress Report detailing many of the suggestions received and requesting volunteers from the parish to assist in strengthening existing ministries and forming new ministries based on the Parish Assembly input. A parish Mission Statement was also drafted.

October 4, 2022 the second Parish Assembly met in the Parish Center (formerly the school gym). Although it was raining cats and dogs which was apropos for the Feast of St. Francis, there was a tremendous turnout complete with delicious refreshments prepared and arranged on the St. Francis Table of Plenty by several PPC members and volunteers.

PPC members presented the three goals and related objectives for each of the goals to the Parish Assembly requesting feedback on Evangelization and Community Outreach during two small breakout sessions. The Goals and some of the objectives presented were:

- Evangelization
 - Faith formation, bible studies, parish based retreats/missions, prayer chains, and catechesis.
 - Organize cultural events facilitated by parishioners.
 - Book club sessions to share spirituality through books.
 - Pray and Walk prayer groups for a body, mind and spirit connection
- Community Outreach
 - Strengthening of existing ministries, organizing the ministries so that there will be ministry in every organization and organization in every ministry.
 - Encourage and support a spirit of volunteerism.

- Ministry to the home bound.
- Spreading the word using various media and local community bulletin boards to reach people beyond the confines of the church walls.
- Hold regular community building events.
- Service
 - Provide outreach to the needy and lonely.
 - Strengthening the bereavement committee.
 - Hold parish fund raisers with fun events.
 - Meeting people where they are and making them feel welcome.
 - Strengthening the existing food pantry and other public assistance ministries and potentially partnering with organizations like The Knights of Columbus and the Vincentians.
 - Creating a stronger bond with the Religious Education families (including the traveling Madonna, inviting them to participate in a more meaningful way in parish activities and ministries by direct invitation.

The Parish Mission Statement was introduced and recited prayerfully for the first time at the end of the Parish Assembly.

The PPC is in the process of expanding objectives for each of the goals, creating a volunteer data base, assigning PPC facilitators to assist parishioners in organizing, formulating and achieving the goals and objectives and setting reasonable and realistic time frames for implementation of each goal and objective. The PPC will be engaging in parish outreach to facilitate and encourage volunteerism and to continue building on the dynamic spirit of collegiality demonstrated on October 4th by all present at the Parish Assembly.