Members present: Emily Antin, Pat Ballard, Dick Brozic, Fr. Jim DeBruycker, Ann Counihan, Jim Emery, Tica Hanson, Rob Ley, Diane Moe, Andrea Palumbo, Mike Rydberg, Ellen Velasco-Thompson, Kathy Wedl

Absent: Elaine Hauff

Staff: Dennis Heaney

Opening Prayer – Diane

Approval of January minutes. Motion by Emily, seconded by Jim, motion carried.

Staff Guests: Anna Mae Vagle, Liturgy and Music Director; Gabrielle Dane, Family Liturgy Director.

- Anna spoke of how the liturgy gathers people together; Jesus’ story is our story. Our ministry is visible with great collaboration among all the prayer partners. They have a process in place for the themes and ideas for each week and each season in the church. For example, during Lent all ministries and pastors meet for an introspective time, almost like a retreat. “What do the people need?” is a vital question during this process. Collaboration is key to the entire process.

Anna also mentioned the new sound system is good, but has brought some new challenges. With Scott Malchow gone, SJA has a new contract with Twin Cities Sound.

- Gabrielle discussed the Family Masses which have 30-40 families participating each week. This mass is designed for all ages with the goal to reach the entire family. The presenters and musicians are children of all ages. The attendance is up, especially at the early Mass. There are lots of options for outreach, both local and global. Father Peter Nosbusch, a retired clergy from New Ulm presides over our Family Mass.

Update Member Contact Info – Ellen passed around our roster to be updated.

Pastor’s Report – Father DeBruycker.

- Father DeBruycker asked for our prayers as he will be having another procedure Wednesday, February 19. He discussed our upcoming speaker, Father Jim Martin, who will be skyped in for an hour talk at 1 pm Sunday. This has brought up some concerns as he ministers to those on the edge or fringes. Nothing he says is wrong; he is open to all walks of life and individual choices.

- Father DeBruycker and Dennis Heaney commented on how well JP Fitzgibbons, Receptionist handles customers – some of them irate. JP has Masters Degrees in three areas, including Theology. Our other front desk staff are equally as adept; Dennis agreed to give them thank you cards from the Council.

- Our Outreach Fund has named Risen Christ School a Sustaining Partner and will give them $10,000 annually. This is in addition to the annual presentation from the school’s president, Mike Rogers, followed by a second collection, this year on Sunday, February 16th.
The Council was reminded that SJA social justice donations are approximately $300,000 annually.

Financial Update – Dennis Heaney
- Dennis passed out the Statement of Activities YTD from December 2019. We are half-way through our fiscal year and overall are doing very well. The Development funds which include Cabaret, the concert series and special events are doing well. We have also received some special gifts. Dennis commented that our strong financial standing is due to a combination of SJA generosity and excellent staff. The recent 3-year building campaign which is coming to a close this spring has been extremely successful and we expect most pledges to be made.
- There has been a refocus on our Memorial Garden. Dennis will be looking into a perpetual care fund, working with Catholic Cemeteries.
- The Finance Committee recently opened an account with the Catholic Community Foundation who will assist with endowments and estates.

Lay Advisory Update – Kathy Wedl
- Kathy recently attended a small group meeting with Archbishop Hebda. It is interesting to note that many younger Catholics (in their 20’s) are more conservative and talk about wanting to roll back Vatican II.

New Parishioner Welcome – Pat Ballard
- SJA has 10 new households and 3 households that have left the Parish. Parish Council members discussed their calls with new members; it was a good dinner and well attended.

Liaison Mini-Reports – none

New Business
- Dennis will prepare the timeline for recruiting new Parish Council members. He needs to know soon how many members will not be returning.

Next meeting – Wednesday, March 5th. Ellen will offer the prayers and take minutes. Olivia Brown, Membership and Volunteer Administrator will be the staff guest.

Closing Prayer – Diane

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Moe