

Notes from the Steering Committee #19

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” ([Psalm 46:1](#)).

We have been continuing to meet throughout the pandemic via Zoom. During this time, we decided to deal with the very essentials: 1) Were we going to remain a Steering Committee or become a Parish Council; 2) Our Safety Plan and 3) Quarterly Meetings. By the time of our March meeting, the financial needs of the church were becoming apparent. However, the Finance Committee took care of looking at what could be done with regard to our finances and Father Anthony informed us as to what was going on. The Finance Committee has posted on our Facebook page about what can be done there which is: 1) Go through the Archdiocese with a debit or credit card. The link is <https://archomaha.org/offertory/> (there are no fees and 100% goes to the parish); or 2) Mail checks or money orders to the church at 1315 First Avenue, South Sioux City, NE 68776. We have also been able to take out a loan which we will not have to pay back if certain criteria are met. A side note: You might have noticed the recent painting of lines in the parking lots. The need for that had been discussed last year and we had to wait until April so it was done recently with donated funds specifically for that purpose – it did NOT come out of church funds.

Another thing we were concerned with was how parishioners could stay connected to the church. Thankfully, ideas were presented by Father Weidner and others. We want to thank several people who have made this challenging time more meaningful – our priests, especially Father Weidner with his messages and the LIHM Sisters for sharing our masses on Facebook and providing the beautiful music and prayers. They also decorated the church for Easter and it was just beautiful. Thanks to those who contributed flowers or funds for flowers. Speaking of Facebook, we want to thank Pat Mahnke who continually provides inspiration on our page. All these things have helped us to stay in touch with our parish without risking being exposed. In addition to the continued Adoration and Confessions were the Palm Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday blessings. A big THANK YOU goes out to the all the ladies who made masks to distribute that Sunday along with having the (delayed) Easter blessing. It was greatly appreciated and as we have seen since, greatly needed.

In addition, Father Weidner would like to add: **People are able to stop by the church for adoration in the chapel or main church (exposition in main church Saturdays and Sundays 10 am to 8 pm). We will start praying the Rosary at 8:00 p.m. and after we are done with the Rosary, the blessed Sacrament will be taken back to the chapel where it will be all other times. People can pray with Blessed Sacrament in tabernacle 9:15 am to 6 pm M-F. Confessions are M-F 7:45-8:15 am and 5-6 pm; Saturdays and Sundays 3:45-4:15 pm and 6:15-7:00 pm. You may leave contributions in the secured collection box. People should, of course, remember to wear a mask and that no more than 4 people can be in the chapel at a time or 10 at a time in the main church. Thank you!**

At our February meeting, we decided to stay a Steering Committee. As such, we are just a consultative body to the priests. We still needed guidelines which were introduced at the March meeting. The corrected guidelines were voted on at the April meeting and passed. You can view these in a separate document on this website.

The Safety Plan and the Quarterly Meetings continue to be addressed. Fortunately, we were able to meet with His Armor, which is a group of law enforcement individuals whose ministry is to making churches safer, shortly before the pandemic hit. They shared some of their observations that day but still need to get a formal report to us. It addressed not only an active shooter but also weather and medical related safety issues. We will post their report once we have received it – Covid 19 has

taken their time and energy. We want to thank Paola Velazquez for all the work she has done with this.

Norma De La O has agreed to be in charge of the Quarterly Meetings. She has some ideas for fun gatherings which we look forward to when we can get together again.

We have not forgotten our graduates and want to have a mass to honor them whenever it is possible. Gina Navarrette is in charge of this. Congratulations, Class of 2020! We are very proud of you. To complete your requirements at this particular time is no small feat.

Since it is Teacher Appreciation Week, it is fitting that we also give a big shout out to our teachers at St. Michael's School. They have been working hard these last two months to keep their students actively involved in their learning even though they were not physically present. Our teachers and principal, Sandy Williams, are a true blessing.

Finally, we will be adding to our group in June. If you are interested in joining us, please email me (Mary Wiltgen) at marwilt1@gmail.com.

In closing, we know that many of our parishioners have been affected by this pandemic. We want you to know that you are in our thoughts and our prayers. We look forward to the time that we can be together again. Having Zulema Nuno-Jones become our Parish Coordinator has also been a huge blessing. It was Zulema's idea to make calls to all parishioners. **If you have any needs during this time, please do not hesitate to let either the office or the priests know.** Father Weidner (402) 659-5925 or Father Mike (402) 640-4087; the Parish Office – 402-494-5423.

Mary Wiltgen, President of the Steering Committee