

## St. John The Baptist Parish Development Commission

**Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00pm  
**Recorder:** Melissa Strunc  
**Location:** Virtual — ZOOM

### Attendees:

Mark Hammer                      Gene Delaune                      Fran Davis                      Melissa Strunc  
Bob Gabler- Absent              Maureen Owusu                  Vicky Wicks (Guest)  
**Staff Representative:** Maureen Owusu

**Parish Mission Statement:** Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life: Go. Make. Teach.

**Theme for the Year:** United in the Holy Spirit

**PDC Goal:** Uniting our Parish through generosity, willingness to grow, and prayer.

- ❖ **Vicky Wicks – Potential new Development Commission member.**
- ❖ **Update on SJB Development Associate position.**
  - **Fran is on the second interview committee. Candidates go through first interview group, who recommend if the candidate should have a second interview. We have 5 applicants for the position. Any applicant is discussed among St. John’s trustees, Father, and Mark on who should have an interview and will need the consensus of the second round interviewers to be hired. But, ultimately up to Father Paul and Mark Dittman on who will be hired. Posting will be up until the position is filled, no deadline.**

### ➤ **Goals for 2020/2021**

- ❖ **Electronic Giving                      ~ Maureen**
  - **Update on current status of Electronic Giving - numbers vs LY.**
  - **Vanco vs. Parish Soft – conversion update.**
  - **Continued advertising of Electronic Giving info in all SJB communication vehicles.**

Currently, have about 30 on the Vanco (old) system and 267 in ParishSOFT (new) for recurring electronic Sunday giving. Working on getting through the remaining to convert over. Gene’s question- what percent of Sunday giving is electronic? This could be used to advertise electronic giving. Maureen will look into it and let us know. Fran seconds Gene’s question. Maureen will get the information as a percent of givers and the monetary value.

Fran pointed out that a lot of parishes don’t have a lot e-payments like St. John’s has. It could be a story in the Catholic Spirit to show our success.

Mark was wondering if St. John’s has seen a spike in electronic giving due to the giving promos in the e-newsletter or bulleting. Maureen said that they haven’t seen a large increase.

Advertising of electronic giving- Vicky was wondering if people who watch on Facebook or YouTube can see this advertisement. It could be a very soft message about showing appreciation for the electronic Masses. Gene said that it might fit at the end of Mass announcement. Gene also thinks we should promote the mutual benefit of electronic giving.

Fran supplied Mark Dittman testimonials, info, questions/responses about Electronic Giving and a format in which to apply them to SJB communication vehicles. Mark would like to use a different plan of application and should have something put together in February.

The group also discussed the need to have a strong Electronic Giving message present through Mid-March in all communication vehicles. After that (April - August) the message should still be present, but appear maybe 1-2 times per month in all modes of communication.

Vicky suggested that if we go back to listing the weekly financials in the bulletins, we can include the breakdown of electronic giving. Then include a link that if parishioners want to donate.

❖ **Benefactor Thank You Process.** ~ Maureen

- Current status of Thank You/ acknowledgements.
- No forward movement on this process until new Development Associate is in place.

Fran suggested that we can start a list of priorities for the new Development Associate to work on when they start. The Thank You Process can be on the list. Vicky was wondering about a Legacy wall, not necessarily a wall but could be in a three-ring binder, to show who donated what gifts and to acknowledge the gifts.

Brainstorming ideas of how to get the Development Associate “on their feet”. Get to know the parishioners who donate to St. John’s. Meet with members of the 50 year club and get to know them. The Associate should think of the position as an ongoing position, they shouldn’t feel burned out after 6 months; and Father Paul should be aware of this. We can see if other parishes in the Archdiocese has a similar position to obtain ideas to help out the Associate. Fran will start a grid of ideas for the Associate to accomplish and will send out to us.

❖ **Legacy Society Launch**

- No forward movement on this process until new Development Associate is in place.

❖ **New member suggestions – Still looking for additional members. Any comments on the revised, much shorter version of our mission statement?**

- The Parish Development Commission is seeking additional members. The Commission’s purpose is to assist with developing funding for Church and School operations. No specific background is required. The Commission and its members work with and through a / the Development Associate.

Please contact PDC Chair, Fran Davis [fran@davisplace.org](mailto:fran@davisplace.org) or 612-865-8140.

**How to attract new members? We shorten the commission’s mission statement (right above) and all agree that looks good.**

- **Miscellaneous**
  - **Thank you** for your continued generosity of time and commitment to SJB!!!!
  - Other?

Gene brought up the development Process to include endowment fund for the school and end the parish subsidy to the school. Is it appropriate to ask the trustees, given revenue trends and school enrollment is up, what amount of endowment should the school receive to be financially independent of the parish? We agree that this is something we can ask about, if only to get started or to ‘plant the seed.’ Fran will contact Gary Horn, one of the trustees.