

To all copied herein,

Our secretary/bookkeeper, Luanne Gasparek, and I were discussing yesterday a way-through Zoom- to have our staff resume work and have staff meetings on a remote, distancing and, at least, weekly basis once we resume triparish work in the “new normal.”

This recognizes the coronavirus pandemic could last for many more months or even a year or more until copious CV testing and a truly effective vaccine become a reality in our area. All of you are already familiar with the restrictions that have been placed on normal church functions. You also may know of the Wisconsin Governor’s recent extension of current restrictions to late May. And that presumably assumes at least the testing noted above will be in place. Most certainly the vaccine will not be.

Therefore when we resume work we will also likely be doing so under all the current restrictions that good science and safety standards continue to require of us.

We also were planning to pay staff as soon as we put them back to work if and as soon as we get funding from loans and grants from the Federal Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) for which churches and other 501 (3)(c)’s are eligible.

Luanne has done a brilliant job of getting all the necessary paperwork and bank/SBA filings completed. That’s the good news.

The bad news is that both the PPP and EIDL programs have run out of money as of yesterday and we don’t know if we are beneficiaries of money’s already committed to our applications or not.

Unless there are some glitches in the system (and the SBA reportedly has glitches galore) we know Luanne met all the filing requirements “to a tee.” (Note: There probably will be more money’s committed to these two programs by Congress because of these snafus. But that hasn’t happened yet.)

In any event I ask all of our office staff to be prepared to join us on the internet via Zoom in the next week or so for open and candid sessions where we will come together in prayer and thoughtful planning as the team, or community within a community, that we truly are and to plan ways in which our Triparish can continue to be church under ongoing restrictions.

I know that not all of you are comfortable with Zoom. I still have much to learn about it myself. But I humbly implore you when you have the time to spend the next few days with me googling it via your cell phones, lap tops or desk tops to begin the necessary process of familiarization.

Then, if and when we know the funding (i.e. loans) is to be received, we'll kick things off with a Zoom meeting to begin to discuss exactly how we all will work together to fulfill the teaching and other staff roles for which those loans/grants will have office and other staff back on the triparish payroll.

Please anticipate a Zoom staff meeting as soon as I figure out how to set up and moderate at least our first meeting.

Luanne and I have been the only staff in office since social distancing and other restrictions began. We both miss the warm camaraderie as much as the good work our teachers, office and other staff always has to offer.

Now our office staff, at the very least, can hopefully come together via the Internet to brainstorm ideas for allowing the work of our triparish to continue in the midst of the challenges of this pandemic.

Peace,

Fr Jim