

Minutes
St. Catherine's Pastoral Council
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
7:00 p.m., Conference Room, Parish Center

Present: Madeline LaRocca, Steve Jesch (Vice Chair), Thomas O'Toole (Secretary), Diane Bradac, Mary Crosley, Tom Dunn, Gigi Galanthay, Nicole Carrier-Titi, Jose Martinez, Father Joe

Excused: Joseph Babcock (Chair)

Absent: Kristen Campagnolo, Alejandro Santana, Dotsevi Soga, Richard Hemming, Sally Ramirez

7:03 Meeting began with welcome by Steve Jesch and prayer/reflection led by Tom Toole.

7:20 Motion to approve agenda and minutes by Madeline LaRocca, second by Diane Bradac.

7:25 Mary Lou Bailey Smith was not able to present during the meeting with committee representatives. She attended representing the Pastoral Visitor Ministry. Currently, there are seven pastoral visitors visiting those who are homebound, and nine who are ministering at Brookdale and Longview. The Pastoral Visitor Ministry recently started a ministry at Kendall on the second Wednesday of every month. There are 20 Catholic residents at Kendall; Patricia Williams has been ministering to three of them, and the rest have gotten lost in the shuffle. Residents have requested that Father Joe come over periodically to celebrate mass with them. There are three new ministers for Brookdale. They are also going to start collecting data on potential improvements to the Pastoral Visitor Ministry. The Ministry has also coordinated with Ashley to enlist middle schoolers raking leaves for the homebound, and coordinating with Pointsetta Ministry to ensure residents receive pointsettas at Christmas.

Nicole Carrier-Titi asked whether we should make Kendall a regular Sunday service. Mary Lou Bailey Smith noted that Sunday was not a good time at Kendall, since so many denominations celebrate services on Sunday.

7:25 Plan for Distributing Survey

Jose Martinez suggested raffling a \$50 Amazon gift card to encourage survey response.

A lengthy discussion occurred around question wording and response scale, with some Pastoral Council members noting that wording was not clear on what the questions were trying to assess (awareness vs. importance vs. quality). Pastoral Council members also suggested adding demographics that were not included in the draft survey, as well as clarifying demographics that were included in the survey (care providers). Diane Bradac suggested adding an item on what respondents would like to see St. Catherine's "stop."

Pastoral Council members suggested changing wording of questions 3 & 4 to ensure clarity for respondents on what we were asking of them. Father Joe suggested adding a 5th question on whether respondents felt we were fulfilling the mission and vision of the Parish (including adding the text of the mission and vision as a preamble to this question).

Nicole Carrier-Titi, Gigi Galanthay, and Tom Dunn will incorporate changes, and bring back to Pastoral Council at our next business meeting.

Pastoral Council decided to move the January 8 meeting to January 3. The timeline for distributing the survey, as well as discussing the purpose of the survey at masses, will be discussed at the January 3 meeting.

8:05

Debrief Committee Representative Meeting & Discussion of Next Steps

Mary Crosley noted that a common theme shared by committee representatives was the lack of volunteers, but was unsure of what could be done about this. Nicole Carrier-Titi suggested witness talks around volunteerism.

Tom O'Toole noted that we should follow up with committee representatives throughout the year to ensure that some of the suggestions raised by the Pastoral Council are being taken into consideration by committees.

Father Joe suggested asking committee representatives how they felt about the meeting, and whether they felt meeting with the Pastoral Council was an effective use of their time.

Steve Jesch proposed setting aside time at the end of the committee representative meeting to allow them to mingle with each other.

Nicole Carrier-Titi revisited the prospect of having Pastoral Council members join committees as volunteers.

Jose Martinez suggested that Pastoral Council share meeting minutes with committee representatives, highlighting takeaways/suggestions from the Pastoral Council.

Tom O'Toole agreed to send meeting minutes to committee representatives, highlighting takeaways/suggestions from the Pastoral Council.

Father Joe suggested telling Ann Marie that we should restructure the timing of the adult Dominican Republic trip in light of low interest. Perhaps have the sisters from the Dominican Republic visit every second year, with adults traveling to the Dominican Republic every fourth year. Nicole Carrier-Titi suggested that offering intensive Spanish classes through the parish might increase interest.

Nicole suggested that Pastoral Council members should be provided with a short description of what each committee does before the committee representative meeting.

8:30 Pastoral Council Participation in Thanksgiving Dinner

Father Joe asks 2-3 Pastoral Council members to arrive at 3:00/3:30 for setup. Other Pastoral Council members who can participate can arrive at 5:30 (bring desserts).

8:35 Father Joe Commentary and Discussion

With regard to recent changes in collections, comparing this time last year and this year, collections have not varied that much. Will still be taking up collections for holiday masses and other holy days of obligation.

Diocese has hired a finance director for St. Catherine's, who will also be hiring a bookkeeper. Finance Director will be shared among seven churches, with a central office in All Saints.

Father Joe expressed concerns regarding the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Right now, St. Catherine's is at 20% of our goal; our goal is \$52K, so we are \$32K short. Father Joe explained that we always budget a \$15K loss in our operations budget to cover our Catholic Ministries Appeal shortcoming. He noted that if a sustainable means of covering this gap is not found, we will have to start adjusting programming (eliminating or charging for events that are currently free, increasing fees for certain programming).

Pastoral Council members offered various suggestions for increasing donations around Catholic Ministry Appeal, including a phone solicitation, clarifying exactly what the Catholic Ministry Appeal covers during mass, increasing fees for certain programming and events, and debiting over time. Tom O'Toole noted that while some of these strategies might close the gap this year, because this is a recurring expense in our operations budget that will increase over time, we have to find a sustainable way of closing this gap.

8:50 Review Comment Cards

Comment: "Annual blessing of the animals could be opened to the greater community (invite other priests in the area to participate) and it can be a fundraiser for SPCA."

Response: "This is an excellent idea! One of our Pastoral Council members is on the Board of SPCA and will look into how this can be leveraged as a fundraiser. Another member suggested broadening fundraising to include other animal rescue nonprofits in the area. If you suggested this and would like to work on this event next year with us, please contact either Father Joe or any member of the Pastoral Council. . Thanks for the great suggestion!"

9:00

Thank Yous

P&C Fresh for providing turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner.

Ciao, Boatyard, Flower Fashions, Triphammer Wines and Spirits, Benjamin Peters—all were participants in our recent fundraising efforts.

Margaret Digaetano and Diane Duthie for selling photos to fundraise for the new sound system.

Square Dance Committee .

All parishioners who donated to fund the new sound system.

Bishop Clarke and Dan McMullen for covering for Father Joe in his absence.

Ruth Marchetti and Catholic Charities for conducting the Poverty Simulation.

All Ithaca Mobile Pack coordinators and volunteers.

9:14

Closing Prayer and Adjourn