

## **Pastoral Council Minutes**

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

**PRESENT:**, Joseph Babcock, Tom Dunn, Nicole Carrier-Titti, Fr. Joe Marcoux, Alex DeRoos, Madeline LaRocca, , Stephen Jesch, Jose Martinez, Tom O'Toole, Sally Ramirez, Alejandro Santana

**ABSENT:** Dotsevi Sogah (excused), Kristin Campagnolo

### **1. Prayer and Reflection.**

Prayer and reflection was led by Tom Dunn.

### **2. Approval of minutes**

Joseph moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Nickie. Minutes were unanimously approved by vote.

### **3. Meeting with Committee Chairs**

Committee chairs from invited parish committees reported on their annual activities. Below is a summary of activities reported by each committee chair.

#### *Jonathan Lunine*

##### *Peace & Justice*

The focus of the Peace and Justice committee is on the so-called two feet of charity — direct help and changing conditions. The committee meets monthly with an average attendance of seven members. The main priority is to increase political activism, focusing on one or two key issues. The outcome of the 2016 Presidential election has presented opportunities for the Peace and Justice committee to act, including the Muslim ban and Climate change. However, the committee does not want to duplicate areas that are already being addressed, either at Saint Catherine's or in the broader Ithaca community. The signature activity is the dinner for migrant workers in King Ferry, which takes place every summer. There is a desire to sponsor parish wide films that highlight wealth and equality. Other activities have included sponsoring parish talks on political activism, climate change, and Catholic social justice. The committee offered prayers for support of the Ithaca College faculty labor negotiation. The committee sponsored an advocacy weekend, encouraging contacting state lawmakers to speak out against physician assisted suicide.

#### *Ithaca Peace Festival*

##### *Ted Skibinski and Kristy Colbert*

The original purpose of festival was to bring people from the greater Ithaca community to our campus. However, this has not occurred, so the committee has been seeking ways to encourage festival growth. Last year there were between 1500-2000 people who attended, but most were from Saint Catherine's. In an effort to appeal to the broader community, the name was changed from "International Peace Festival" to "Ithaca Peace Festival". New artwork has been designed. A third day has been added to the festival. There is a desire to use the festival

as a platform to communicate, particularly with other faith communities. To this end, the committee has reached out to Jewish, Muslim, Tibetan, other Christian churches as a way to educate our communities in other faith traditions. The committee is looking for ways to increase advertising, through development of a website, presence on social media, and direct advertising through faith communities.

*Joe Kiely*

*Finance Council*

Due to a focus on cash management and leakage by the Diocese of Rochester, Saint Catherine's has implemented changes in how finances are processed and accounted for. This is new demand by the diocese, with strict rules that must be followed. Saint Catherine's has been working to comply with these rules to ensure that all parish finances are safe and accurate.

*Ashley Blank*

*CLOW, Faith Formation, including Middle School and High School Youth Group*

The programs continue to be successful. There are 211 registered youth from CLOW through high school. Attendance is approximately 70-75%. The breakdown on attendance on a typical Sunday: CLOW (29), Grades 1-6 (~100), Middle School (25) and High School (15). The goal this year was service and works of mercy. Whole group sessions focused on current events, including refugees, Muslims, and care for the environment. There is a strong group of dedicated catechists. Many youth focused events are planned, including a youth retreat, youth Mass, middle school/high school choir. There is a strong interest in Middle School and High School for service. Service opportunities this year included visits to Brookdale and Loaves & Fishes. Due to changes in diocesan requirements for Confirmation, there is more catechesis for middle school ages.

*Patricia Sipple*

*Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries*

Patricia works to match volunteers with ministries. Committees can contact Patricia if volunteers are needed. There was Ministry Fair in March, which was moved to mid-winter. Patricia also spoke about Ithaca Mobile Pack for Feed My Starving Children, which will be held on Oct. 12-15, 2017 at St. Catherine's. St. Catherine's is hosting this event for two years. There will be numerous volunteer opportunities.

*Sherry Scanza*

*Music Ministry*

The goal of music ministry is to give parishioners the opportunity for full and conscious participation in the liturgy. The music ministry committee plans all liturgical music and gets its cues from themes suggested by the liturgy committee. They plan music that is good quality, both lyrically and musically; and embraces a wide-variety of styles to meet the interests and tastes of parish members. In addition, to singing at weekend liturgies, the choir performs in several parish wide concerts and at special celebrations, such as confirmation, and in events with other Ithaca area Catholic communities (e.g. Lenten Cantata). One goal this year was to involve more high school youth in liturgies. The youth choir (mostly elementary/middle school

age) sings at Mass twice a month. In addition, there is small group – the Peace Choir – who sings at funerals. Sherry brought up that the church is in desperate need of a new sound system.

*Bob Brown*

*Welcoming and Social Committee*

The function of the Welcoming and Social Committee is to plan parties that engage the parish community socially. The committee had several successful events over the past year. There was a Trivia Night in February, which was well attended. The parish picnic is coming up in June, and Harvest festival in the Fall. Bob mentioned that new members are needed.

*Ann Marie Eckert*

*DR Development Committee*

Ann Marie talked mostly about the visit by Sr. Iris and Sr. Therese to St. Catherine's this spring. The goal was to show them the spiritual life of the St. Catherine's community. The 200 Club Dinner raised \$12,000. This was a challenging year, given that there is no longer a raffle. Kinks are still being worked out.

*Ann Marie*

*Small Christian Communities*

Mostly wanted to comment that there are several small Christian communities that meet at St. Catherine's regularly. They may need resources from the parish. St. Catherine's will be embarking on an evangelization program, called "Christ Life", probably in the Fall/Winter time frame.

*Ann Marie*

*Adult Faith Enrichment Committee*

Chose not to start anything big this year, because of lack of space, but want to relaunch sometime this year.

### **3. People to be thanked in the bulletin**

Jean Luzzi and her team, Bishop Mattano, Fr. White, Jessica Ryan (Easter egg hunt), Liturgy committee for Lenten theme, Music ministry team, Mary for filling in, RCIA team, Sisters from the DR, Marge Whittlock (1<sup>st</sup> communion), Decoration and cleaning for Easter Host and translators for the Sisters and those who hosted them

### **4. Other business**

Joseph reminded us to nominate new PC council members. Next meeting will be the end of year picnic.

*Respectfully submitted by Stephen Jesch*