

Minutes

St. Catherine's Pastoral Council

Monday, November 12, 2018

7:00 p.m., Conference Room, Parish Center

Present: Steve Jesch (Chair), Tom O'Toole (Secretary), Joseph Babcock, Fritz Bernstein, Ben Boynton, Diane Bradac, Rosanne Colangelo, Mary Crosley, Dan Doyle, Tom Dunn, Gigi Galanthay, Susan Hyatt, Madeline LaRocca, Sally Ramirez-Warren

Excused: Dan Doyle, Madeline LaRocca, Dotsevi Sogah

I. 7:00 – 7:15 Prayer and Reflection: Fritz Bernstein

II. 7:15 – 7:20 Approval of Minutes From October Meeting

Motion to Approve: Joseph Babcock

Second: Diane Bradac

Minutes unanimously approved

III. 7:20 – 7:59 Presentation by Ann Marie Eckert

As part of Pastoral Council's work this year, we are meeting with St. Catherine's staff members to better understand their role and responsibilities. Ann Marie gave a presentation on her various responsibilities (see addendum).

Steve Jesch: Although Ann Marie coordinates a lot of activities/programming, who actually leads the development of, or initiates, these activities/programming? Ann Marie responded that she, Father Joe, and Ashley are highly adept at staying abreast of best practices and ascertaining which practices would be compatible with the needs of St. Catherine's.

Steve Jesch: What do you consider your most important responsibility? Ann Marie responded that she felt RCIA was the most important thing that she is unilaterally responsible for.

Joseph Babcock: Please explain how you work with each of the committees. Ann Marie indicated that she uses a different approach to work with each committee.

Tom O'Toole; What are your three biggest challenges, and how can we as a Council help support you in your role? Ann Marie responded that it would be ideal if the parish would invest more in leadership and skills development for parishioners.

Steve Jesch: How many hour per week do you work? Ann Marie typically works 70+ hours per week. A discussion followed of how some of Ann Marie's work might be shared by lay leadership.

Tom Dunn: Is there something that you would want to do, that you currently aren't able to? Ann Marie responded that she would love to have more time to devote to leadership development.

Joseph Babcock: For RCIA, do people come on their own, or is there an outreach effort? This year, Ann Marie went through the parish registry and sent letters to spouses who aren't Catholic and didn't regularly come to church. It is often difficult to project who will be attracted to RCIA. Joseph noted that those who join the Church through RCIA are often more engaged Catholics than those who grew up Catholic. Asked whether there is any way to offer some of the content available to RCIA candidates to parishioners, broadly. Father Joe mentioned that we often overprogram in our parish, which tends to overwhelm people.

A discussion followed regarding what Ann Marie's plans were in the event that Father Joe left. Ann Marie indicated that she would still be willing to stay if Father Joe was transferred to a different parish.

IV. 8:04 – 8:10 Presentation by Mary Crosley

Anti-Nuclear Resolution (Ithaca City Council): Resolution on preventing nuclear war. Mary Crosley presented the resolution to Pastoral Council and some facts about the ramifications of limited and large-scale nuclear conflict.

Several Council members questioned what the impact will be beyond our parish.

Father Joe will write a bulletin insert on Catholic social teaching and nuclear war. Will also post to the website and social media and invite people to contact elected officials if they would like to support the resolution.

Will also ask Ashley to incorporate the subject of nuclear war into High School and Middle School faith formation. Suggestion of asking youth to write their own alternative resolution on nuclear war from a Catholic social teaching perspective.

V. 8:23-8:27 Report on Regional Pastoral Council Meeting in Auburn

Mary Crosley went to the regional pastoral council meeting in Auburn. Are we acting on our mission statement? Are we reaching out effectively to parishioners? How are we making an effort to reach out to those who left the church? Should collaborate more with different parishes. You can tell whether your parish is thriving based on the number of baptisms relative to funerals. 50% of our priests are currently over 70 years of age. In the next four years, this will increase to 75%.

VI. 8:27 – 8:38 Regular Pastoral Council Business

- 1) Reminder – Complete CASE training
- 2) Fr. Joe's comments: Our new finance office is doing better, but we still do not have a budget. Encourages conservative spending/freezes because budget situation is unclear. Diane Bradac mentioned considering consolidations of committees, scaling back on programming to alleviate some burden on staff. Father Joe noted that this would be difficult because the parish is still staff-led. Jewelry sale was hugely successful.

3) Suggestion box

“Here for food packing event-great restrooms and facility. Thanks for serving Jesus by hosting this event.”

4) Bulletin thanks

Jose Martinez for his Pastoral Council service

Jamal, Cindy, and Lindsay from Peaceprints for discussing mass incarceration with adult and youth faith formation classes

Everyone who participated in the Peace Walk

Ruth Doyle, Fritz Bernstein

Mary Lou Bailey Smith and everyone who visits the homebound

Deb Roe and everyone who assisted with mass of remembrance

Dr. Stefek for facilitating AED training

Kathleen Murphy for overseeing giving tree

Colleen Brady for organ donation

Dawn Redlin and everyone involved with jewelry sale

8:25 – 8:30 Closing prayer

Upcoming Meeting Topics:

- Presentations by parish staff
 - Music Ministry - Sherry (January)
 - Faith Formation - Ashley (February)
 - Coordinating Volunteers - Patricia (March)
- Joint meeting
 - Finance council (April)

Next Meeting: December 11-Tuesday starting at 6:30pm (Advent Party at the Country Club)

Addendum: Ann Marie Eckert – Pastoral Associate Role and Responsibilities

Things I coordinate...

- RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
- Beyond the Plate (Patricia and I)
- Church Decorating / Cleaning for Christmas and Easter
- Relationship with the Dominican Republic
- Adult Trip to the Dominican Republic
- Discovering / Following / Sharing Christ
- Trip to Italy
- Senior Events – Mystery Trip, Senior Outing
- Summer Leadership Training
- New Parishioner Welcome Dinners
- Special Events – March for Our Lives Rally, Listening Sessions for the Clergy Crisis

Things I am the staff liaison to...

- Adult Faith Enrichment Committee – Life and Faith Sessions, Movie Nights
- Peace and Justice Committee – Events, Speakers, Advocacy, Diocesan Public Policy
- Ithaca Peace Festival, over-all and specifically the Silent Auction
- Giving Tree
- 200 Club / D.R. Club
- Welcoming and Social – Square Dance, Trivia Night, Parish Picnic
- Eucharistic Ministers Training
- Peace Week Events
- Catholic Charities Dinner

Things I help with...

- Volunteer Orientation
- Ithaca Mobile Pack (Patricia and I)
- Funerals, Holy Days, Holy Week, Advent, Lent, Weekend Liturgies
- Youth Ministry Advisory Committee
- Simple Suppers in Lent
- Stations of the Cross / Lenten Prayer Events
- Ministry Fair
- Volunteer Appreciation Event
- In Fr. Joe's absence – Funerals, check-signing, staff, etc.
- Bulletin (writing and proofing)
- Some of our print materials – Welcome booklet, Holy Week booklet, etc.