

## **St. Catherine's Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

### **June 13, 2022**

**Attended by:** Dotse Sogah, Jonathan Lunine, Diane Bradac, Mary Kay LaLonde, Sue Hyatt, Tom Dunn, Poppy McLeod, Everett Shaw, Art DeGaetano, Arianna Cardenas , Mary Hutchens, Fr. Joe

**Guest:** Jennifer Karius

1. **Opening Prayer and Faith Sharing:** Diane
2. **Approval of May Minutes**  
The Minutes were approved. (Sue/Jonathan)
3. **Follow-up on Actionable Items from Previous Meeting**
  - a. Make adjustments to our PC poster that includes new direct email address.  
Completed
  - b. Resolve insurance question regarding band at Parish Picnic. Completed
4. **Survey Results** (See Hand-out Summary for complete information))  
Jennifer presented results from the recent survey of parishioners. The top items rated by parishioners were:
  - a. Extend hospitality/outreach to parishioners who have left/not yet returned. (354 votes)
  - b. Strengthen and Prioritize Youth Groups (260 votes)
  - c. Rebuild parishioner connections and relationships (236 votes)
  - d. Assist St. Catherine's in meeting day-to-day operational needs (231)

Other observations were noted:

- a. There were some small differences noted between the 2 age demographics that were clustered. Generally, there is more of a "future focus" for the younger group and a more "operational focus" for the older group.
- b. Additional survey comments included encouraging the strengthening of internal communication and concern about the larger Church's approach to welcoming LGBT folks.

5. **Discussion Comments related to Survey Results**
  - a. There are still a lot of parishioners using livestreaming due to Covid concerns and convenience. Should we continue to offer this?
  - b. Should we offer a Eucharistic Program that helps refocus folks to attend Mass in person? (JL)
  - c. Offering a teaching Mass may help. (DS)
  - d. We should focus on the data and remind parishioners that we are offering activities in response to the survey. (DB)

- e. We should prepare a summary of the data from the survey and share it with parishioners. (PM)
- f. Related to comments about staff changes, we are going to go through a difficult transition.
- g. We are currently already doing and planning activities related to the identified issues: parish picnic, hospitality role, coffee hours and dinners planned by John and Mike. (DB)
- h. We should take 3 issues from the survey and map out a plan. An open meeting may be useful to accomplish this. (Fr. Joe)
- i. Contact youth to get more information from them about what they need. (ES)
- j. Start with prayer...a universal prayer to encourage others to come back. (JL)

PL suggested and it was agreed that we would focus on three specific areas from the survey: extending hospitality/outreach to parishioners, prioritize youth programs and day-to-day operational needs.

We will plan a public meeting in the Fall to outline how we will address these areas.

We expressed our thanks to Jennifer for her time in developing and analyzing the survey.

#### **6. Questions from Parishioners to Fr. Joe (conveyed through PC)**

- a. How often is Fr. Joe away? Usually 1X/month
- b. Will we be replacing our associate position? This question was recently addressed by Fr. Joe in a Bulletin article. Finances continue to be a factor.
- c. Who has authority when Fr. Joe is away? Next staff person available.
- d. Are we paying for replacement priest coverage? Yes
- e. Is Fr. Joe's schedule for Mass coverage available ahead of time? Fr. Joe believes it's best not to publish these details.
- f. Does the PC have input into future priest assignments to St. Catherine's? No
- g. Fr. Joe regretfully couldn't attend Ann Marie's event due to a military commitment.

#### **7. Question regarding Bankruptcy and Future Merger**

There are no conclusions to the diocesan bankruptcy case at this time.

Fr. Joe reported that there is nothing new to report on the merger topic. Merging parishes continues to be the trend in the diocese and beyond. He emphasized that we need to focus on building the parish.

Reading the Bulletin each week is the best way to stay current with these issues.

#### **8. Review of Actionable Items**

- a. Write a Summary of the Survey Results

- b. Plan a Public Meeting for September to outline action steps that address the 3 survey areas we are focusing on.

**9. Term Expiration for Some Members**

Jonathan and Mary Kay will not be returning for a second term. Mary H. will continue for a second term. We will be recruiting for 4 new members. In addition to making an announcement about this need at Mass, we should draft something for the Bulletin. All are asked to encourage others to consider this opportunity. We will need to elect a Vice Chair in September.

**10. People to be Thanked**

- a. Tom O'Toole and Jennifer Karius for their time and skill in setting up and analyzing our survey of parishioners.
- b. Parishioners who worked to make our recent parish picnic a success.
- c. Dryden Monument Company
- d. Tom and Jen O'Toole for leading our recent youth retreat

**11. Future Meetings**

We agreed that our meetings would shift to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Next meeting is September 19, 2022.

**12. Ministry Fair**

Diane B. volunteered to organize the next Ministry Fair. She will organize a group to plan this event. Sue H. will assist. Let Diane know if you are interested in helping.

**13. Closing Prayer/Adjournment**