

St. Catherine's Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2022

Attended by: Dotse Sogah, Jonathan Lunine, Mary Crosley, Mary Hutchens, Fr. Joe, Art Degaetano, Mary Kay LaLonde, Sue Hyatt, Tom Dunn, Everett Shaw, Poppy McLeod

1. Prayer and Faith Sharing: Mary Kay

2. Approval of January Minutes:

The Minutes were approved. (Sue/Mary Kay)

3. Introduction of New Members:

Everett and Poppy were introduced. It was mentioned that Poppy is attending to learn more about the PC before confirming her interest in serving.

4. Listening to Our Parishioners:

We discussed ways to improve the communication from parishioners in relation to the PC. A number of comments were made on this topic:

- a. Some parishioners have expressed that they have had bad experiences with the PC.
- b. Some parishioners have the impression of exclusivity from the PC.
- c. Should we listen more and not ask questions?
- d. Should we plan a number of open meetings each year?
- e. Would a "town hall" format, perhaps between Masses be useful?
- f. Should we plan a specific question on the survey to address this question.

It was decided that our June meeting would include 30-45 minutes for listening to parishioners. The June timing could provide some additional direction for the start of our year in September. We may want to consider a specific agenda/topic on which we are asking for input. We will keep the rest of the agenda for that meeting to nonconfidential matters. We will schedule at least one additional open meeting (Jan. or Feb.) for the next year.

5. Follow-up: Actionable Items from Previous Meeting

- a. Statements from PC members regarding ministry experiences. Mary Kay (sacristan) and Mary H. (Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance) are writing pieces and plan to have them completed before the March meeting.
- b. Fr. Joe will approach potential new members for the PC. Completed.
- c. PC Members will attend and encourage others to attend synod meetings. We will continue to do this.
- d. Enlist expertise for the PC survey to parishioners. Tom O'Toole, Jennifer Karius and Mike Redlin have offered their support. Tom and Jennifer will work together on the survey.

6. Status of the Survey

a. Demographics

We discussed what level of detail should be asked in the survey. We agreed that the standard information that is asked in the government census would be adequate for our needs.

b. Anything about the Synod to be included in the survey?

We discussed some confusion regarding what will happen with the information that is gathered in our parish Synod meetings. Fr. Joe reiterated that all information from our local meetings will be published and available to parishioners. The diocese will significantly condense all information that is passed on to Rome.

We discussed the wording of a survey question that refers to feedback on the format of the Synod meetings. Jonathan will lead a small group (Poppy, Art and Mary H.) to wordsmith exact language for this question.

7. Issues arising from the Synod meeting that the PC may explore.

Fr. Joe reported that the issues that have come up at this point can only be changed by the hierarchy and not at our local parish level.

8. Father Joe's Update and Comments

- a. Budget planning is beginning. It is unlikely that there will be financial resources to hire another person. Sharing this position with another parish will be explored.
- b. There is continuing concern about people not coming back to church. Fr. Joe welcomed any advice on this concern. It is known that some have left because of our position on Covid protections, including requiring masks. With some discussion, it was agreed that we would continue to follow local Health Department guidelines.

9. Actionable Items

- a. Mary Kay and Mary H. will write up a short piece for the Bulletin on the ministries they are involved in.
- b. Members will continue to participate in and encourage others to attend Synod meetings.
- c. Jonathan will convene a group that will finalize a question on the survey that addresses feedback on the Synod meeting format.

10. People to be thanked

- a. Youth group for cooking for Loaves and Fishes
- b. Youth who made hats for the homeless
- c. Fr. Joe and the Adult Faith Committee for organizing our Synod process.

d. The Shawl Ministry

11. Closing Prayer (Mary Kay)

12. Adjournment