

St. Catherine's Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2022

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

Guests: Mike Redlin and John Bradac

1. Prayer and Faith Sharing: Art

2. Approval of February Minutes:

The Minutes were approved. (Sue/Mary Kay)

3. Listening to and/or Suggestions from our Parishioners:

- a. Prayer for Ukraine: This intention is included in our focus on prayers for troubled parts of the world.
- b. Notice that masks are optional: This information is posted on the door/entrance to the church.
- c. Resume "Coffee Sunday": Planning for this event is in process.

4. Follow-up on Previous Actionable Items:

- a. Mary Kay and Mary H. have submitted pieces for the Bulletin on their ministry involvement.
- b. Synod meetings have concluded.

5. Status of Survey

We discussed the value of offering incentives for completing the survey. We agreed that we would not offer incentives.

Dotse will notify Tom O'Toole and Jennifer Karius that we are ready for them to send the survey out to parishioners.

6. Proposal: Revitalizing St. Catherine's Vibrant Community via Friendship Networks/Connections

(Hand-outs that summarize the proposal were distributed prior to the meeting.)

Mike and John presented a proposal that will focus on improving parishioner engagement with the St. Catherine's community. They noted that an impact of Covid included isolation from long term, satisfying relationships as well as some disconnect from the shared purpose and values that being part of St. Catherine's can offer.

The operational part of the proposal focuses on a series of dinners with about 12 people attending. Each group will reflect some commonalities in demographics. During these

events, a series of planned questions will be posed and stories will be collected that detail how the Parish has served them, especially during Covid.

The outcomes presented included the collection of stories that could be shared more widely as well as 100 parishioners who feel more engaged.

Mike and John requested support from the PC in the form of assistance in forming and hosting groups for these dinner events as well as \$1,000 for expenses that arise from the dinners that are part of each group gathering.

We discussed any challenges that doing this along with the Peace Festival and Picnic would bring up. There was agreement that we could manage all of this. We wondered how the Youth Group would respond to this effort. Everett mentioned that youth involvement depends on them knowing who else will be there. Diane mentioned that this effort is a natural next step from our "Renewing Connections" initiative from last year. Mary H. wondered if we could plan a few of these sessions to evaluate the response.

Jonathan made a motion to support this proposal with a recommendation that it begin with 1-2 sessions to assess format and response. We also recommend that Fr. Joe go to the Finance Committee to request up to \$1,000 to pay for the expenses related to this proposal. Mary C. seconded the proposal. All were in favor.

Mike and John will form a Committee to plan next steps for implementing this proposal. They will put a notice in the Bulletin to recruit volunteers. Mary C. and Sue H. offered to help.

7. Church Attendance

Fr. Joe reported that there has been some rise in attendance. A Welcome Back coffee hour after Masses is being discussed by the staff and should be scheduled within the next month.

8. Father Joe's Update and Comments

- a. We recently received a large CMA gift that brings us close to 92% of our goal.
- b. There is a party planned for Ann Marie on 5/14.

9. Review of Actionable Items

- a. Fr. Joe will request up to \$1,000 from the Finance Committee to support the expenses related to the "Revitalizing St. Catherine's Vibrant Community" proposal.
- b. Mary C. and Sue will assist with the Committee that will plan for the "Revitalizing St. Catherine's Community" proposal.
- c. Dotse will notify Tom and Jennifer regarding next steps for the survey.

10. People to be Thanked in the Bulletin

- a. The Adult Faith Committee for their work in organizing the Synod meetings.
Thanks to Mike Toomey for his leadership in this effort, to Lisa Hens for scribing and Theresa Stanley for leading the first 3 meetings
- b. To Sherry and the choir for the beautiful Lenten music.

11. Future Meetings

There are 3 more meetings in this year. We agreed to go back to in-person meetings in April. At our April 11 meeting, we will invite parishioners to attend so they can share their comments/concerns in person. We will designate a significant part of the agenda to listening to parishioners. We will have a time limit for individual comments.

12. Closing Prayer: Art**13. Adjourn**