

**St. Catherine's Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes 2/13/2023**

Attended by: Jen Kuszniir, Fr. Joe, Dotse Sogah, Poppy McLeod, Diane Bradac, Tom Dunn, Mary Crosley, Adrianna Cardenas, Art DeGaetano, Ted Skibinski, Everett Shaw and Mary Hutchens

Guest: Juan Arroyo

1. Prayer and Reflection: Art

2. Approval of January Minutes: Approved (Poppy/Mary C.)

3. Actionable Items from January

- a. Members had presented their summaries on Restructuring Ministries and Revitalization Dinners at this past week-end's Open Forum
- b. Fr. Joe is working on developing a multi-lingual monthly Mass option.

4. Matters Arising from the Open Forum

- a. Poppy requested that we take some time during a PC meeting to plan the structure of the next Open Forum.
- b. Regarding Karen Webb's role (Pastoral Care Assoc.) and the functions we are developing for others as it relates to ministries, Fr. Joe suggested that we request the job description for Karen's role and become familiar with these expectations. Karen's role is continuing to develop over time. We may want to consider inviting her to a future meeting. Generally, staff should be seen as a resource to ministries and less involved in day to day operations.
- c. Should the ministry document focus more on Faith Formation as the center? Fr. Joe suggested that "liturgy" is an appropriate term to have at the center of our document. There was broad agreement on this focus. Mary C. offered to revise our document to reflect this adjustment. Dotse will share the parishioner names that are currently connected to each ministry. We intend to present a revised format at the May Open Forum.
- d. We agreed that each PC member will serve as a liaison between an assigned category of ministry and the Pastoral Council. (Liturgy Committee: Dotse and Sue, Faith Enrichment: Art and Poppy, Welcoming and Social Committee: Ted and Jen, Pastoral Outreach Committee: Tom and Diane and Social Justice Committee: Mary C. and Mary H.)
- e. We discussed the comment that Fr. Joe could be delegating additional responsibilities to parishioners. Fr. Joe emphasized his willingness and enthusiasm to delegate. Members voiced their agreement that this is happening and is essential.
- f. What are we doing to support the Eucharistic Revival initiative? Our Parish Retreat will cover this as well as a series of articles in the Bulletin and the regularly

scheduled Eucharistic Adoration. We are also publicizing activities being held at other parishes.

- g. We discussed our concern about attendance at Open Forums and concluded that we need to be patient and continue to find multiple ways to gather feedback from parishioners.

5. Relaunching of our Sister DR Parish Project

Juan Arroyo reviewed the history of this project and his hope to “reboot” this effort. It is currently suspended. The impact of Covid as well as changes to diocesan policies contributed to the current status. The project began in 1997 and focused on raising funds for things their system does not pay for as well as sending adults and youth from the parish to help with various activities. Specifically, our efforts supported a daycare and early childhood school. Currently, the 4 nuns who are working in the daycare are trying to expand their order.

Juan presented 3 suggestions that could move this effort forward. 1. Make a video with the DR nuns to reintroduce themselves. 2. Organize a special fundraiser with Scholastic books to support the reading program in the school. We understand that fundraising would need to happen outside the parish’s financial structure. 3. Create a small group that would take the books down to the DR.

Other ideas that were raised by PC members: could we promote the vocational efforts of the DR nuns, would testimonials from youth who have been to the DR excite/motivate our current youth groups, partner with the Library Book Sale and host an informational meeting between Masses.

The PC enthusiastically supported Juan’s effort to “reboot” the DR project and asked to be kept informed.

6. Fr. Joe’s Update and Comments

- The bankruptcy process is moving along.
- As we consider reduced resources, we should be encouraging greater communication between county parishes. This should include events going in the Bulletins of all parishes and inviting other Pastoral Councils to meet and discuss topics.

7. People to be Thanked in the Bulletin

- Those who attended the Open Forum
- The Welcoming and Social Committee for organizing Trivia Night.

8. Any Other Matters

Poppy discussed a professional research project focused on the impact of discussion and dialogue on climate change. As part of this project, she proposes to ask parishioners to participate in climate change focus groups. She will be able to pay them. The PC supported this effort. Jen shared that the High School group would be interested in participating as this is a highly motivating topic for them.

9. Actionable Items

1. Mary C. will revise our Ministry handout to include the changes we discussed.
2. Dotse will share the information he has on who the current leads are for each ministry.

10. Closing Prayer: Art