

St. Catherine of Siena Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes 10/16/2023

Attended by: Sue Hyatt, John Bradac, Mike Bovi, Rosie Fox, Ted Skibinski, Poppy McLeod, Mary Hutchens, Fr. John, Everett Shaw, Jen Kuszniir, Amanda Shaw and Bob Pochily

1. **Prayer and Faith Sharing:** Sue
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Approved (Ted/Mike)
3. **Actionable Items from Previous Meeting:**
 - A. Ted will check the website to assure that the ministry diagram has been posted.
 - B. Poppy discussed rescheduling the Social Hours that had been planned for an earlier date. It was agreed that after Mass on 11/4 and between Masses on 11/5 will be the new dates. (A Social Hour after the 11:30 Mass on 11/5 was added after the meeting.)
Jen will contact parents for their possible assistance on 11/5.
 - C. Poppy recommended that we create a protocol document for the steps needed when hosting an event like Social Hours. She will draft a document with input from others who have taken a lead in these events.

4. Finance Committee Update

Amanda Shaw and Bob Pochily presented information on the functions of their Committee as well as specific budget issues for the Council to be aware of.

The Finance Committee receives a draft of our financials from the diocesan budget office that includes a year to year comparison. They are obligated to present the financials to the parish, but cannot change the budget.

Highlights of the 2022-23 budget included noting the impact of the “channeling injunction” (our parish payment related to the lawsuits filed by child abuse plaintiffs and the Diocese’s subsequent bankruptcy filing). Other areas to note were that our largest expenses are salaries and benefits, our regular giving has decreased, our electronic giving has decreased and there were some large capital projects that contributed to expenses.

The Finance Committee is planning to present this budget info. and related concerns to the parish with a goal of being as clear and transparent as possible. Once the information is published in the Bulletin, a presentation will be scheduled. Using a Social Hour format for a presentation/discussion was one possibility.

The Finance Committee will consider ways to reduce expenses and increase donations for the future. A Stewardship Survey and annual donation commitments were two considerations.

Amanda suggested that this was not the right time for a fundraiser for the Tapestry project.

Poppy commented that parishioners need a relationship with the parish. Our efforts to get their input needs more processing and refinement to get maximum engagement. She suggested that cards be placed in the pews for parishioners to use to ask the questions they have. Using this tool for the Nov. Social Hours will be considered.

5. Fr. Jon's Update and Comments

- A. There are trees on the parish property that need to be cut and trimmed for safety. Craig has recommended getting professional services for this need. Estimates are being obtained.
- B. Cross Catholic was very grateful for the donations they received.

6. People to be Thanked

John and Diane Bradac for their work on the Catholic Charities Pasta Dinner.
All volunteers who made the Catholic Charities Pasta Dinner such a success.

7. Other Business

Poppy reviewed notes from parishioners left in the suggestion box.

- A. Our hearing enhancement devices need attention. Elizabeth Root has offered to take charge of this. Poppy will communicate with her.
- B. Other notes focused on: understanding Fr. John's role as Parochial Administrator and his vision for St. Catherine's. Other comments were asking for ways to better understand and hear Fr. John at Mass.

We acknowledged that acoustics of the church can be challenging and that Fr. John's new practice of writing out his homilies has added more clarity. Fr. John welcomed this feedback and encouraged parishioners to come to him directly with concerns.

We had discussion about the need for more efforts to help parishioners get to know Fr. John. We agreed to plan a series of dinners for parishioners who can sign up on a first come first served basis. There will be no specific agenda except to get to know Fr. John and connect with each other. The first dinner will be held on Dec. 9. John agreed to cook and Poppy will talk to Jane about putting an announcement in the Bulletin.

8. Intercessions and Closing Prayers: Susan

9. Meeting Closes