

St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes Feb 24, 2025

Members Present: Rosie Fox, Art DeGaetano, Steve Dollaway, Mary Crosley, Ted Skibinski, Poppy McLeod, Fr. John Omboga, John Bradac, Mike Bovi, Jen Kuszniir

Minutes taken by Poppy McLeod

I. Opening Prayer – Betsy Root

II. Suggestion Box – empty

III. Minutes Feb-3 25 approved -- Mike Bovi moved, Poppy McLeod second

IV. Father John updates:

He hasn't yet sent names of Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers to Diocese; he's waiting to get responses and ensure training of everyone

He reported that we won't be using parishioner baked bread for Holy Thursday this year. He said that when he checked with the Diocese, they said we could not do it.

Discussion: We've been following this tradition for 30 years, what has changed?

We have been using a recipe gotten from the Diocese of Richmond website.

There are other recipes on the Internet for Catholic dioceses making bread

PC asks Father to return to the Diocese to get approval for our baked bread

PC members will compile talking points for FJ to ask DoR to give permission

The question of carrying and bearing the cross on Good Friday was also discussed; there were concerns of parishioners about that tradition having been lost last year. Father John said there are no objections to continuing that practice this year.

V. Task Force Updates

John Bradac reported the task force will have a report ready to present to PC on Mar 17 meeting. 30 minutes on the agenda of that meeting will be allocated

They plan to offer ideas of how their report connects with the strategic plan. John shared a few examples of how some of the ideas would translate into action and connection with strategic plan.

The PC gave a hearty thanks to the task force for its work!

VI. Strategic plan updates

No further updates to the content will be made at this point, pending coordination with plan presented by the Task Force. Poppy reported that she has done just some clean-up editing.

Next steps after getting the task force report that would be to start the plan to certain groups such as the finance council, Liturgy Committee, etc. There was a suggestion that we provide some guidelines for other groups when they review the plan.

VII. New Business

General discussion of idea of developing some kind of central coordinating committee for various activities around the parish. It was mentioned that previously committee chairs had been in positions for 3 yr limits.

There was discussion that people need to be asked directly to volunteer for various activities.

Ted reported on responses to call for participation in the ministry fair. 8 responses within the first week. Deadline for response is March 23. Ted will send another email request; something will be put in the bulletin

Steve brought up question raised by a parishioner about the continued reserved section in the church for masking. Discussion raised the question of whether we should continue having that section. It was pointed out that there are people who may be immunocompromised who may still need that section. Art volunteered to talk directly with some parishioners he knows who may be in that situation. We agreed that the section should be removed during holidays, but leave it as it is currently on a daily basis. Other suggestions were to make the section smaller, and to ask parishioners whether it would impact them coming to church if the section were removed.

Steve also raised the question of when our next meeting with the Finance Council would be. We discussed that we want to add twice yearly meetings with them on our annual calendar. It was suggested to invite them to the Mar 17 meeting to hear the task force report.

Topic of the peace festival was raised; will we have it? Who will chair it? Questions were raised about how well we did last year.

Mary C. reported that the festival was successful last year with respect to participation, and the silent auction made \$3,705.00.

No ideas were forthcoming for who to ask to chair it this year. Suggestions to put something in the bulletin asking if someone is interested in chairing. Mary C. volunteered to draft something for the bulletin

Question raised about tickets for Beyond the Plate – 118 tickets have sold to date. First time it hasn't sold out within the first week.

Discussions of the coordination of Lent/Easter events/ several different individuals and groups have been trying to coordinate. We discussed that the Liturgy Committee has taken on the role of general coordination, but specific tasks need to be handled. Art volunteered help coordinate Ash Wednesday soup supper. We suggested to have Jane Doyle, chair of the Liturgy Committee, come to talk with us about the role that committee is playing. Father John said he would invite her.

Mary C announced speakers for Ash Wednesday.

VIII. People to be thanked in the bulletin:

Pierogi makers and anti-racism book club

Pierogis will be on sale Mar 16 – 18, and at ministry fair

IX Action steps review

Betsy Root volunteered to do the prayer at the next meeting

X. Closing prayer -- Betsy