

Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
July 22, 2020 7PM
Church Alcove and Zoom

Members:

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer
Lori Yankoski

Parish Council Representatives:

Rick Sowell, Nate Garn, Barry Yachem, Melissa Madrigal, Lance Solaroli, Mary Egan, Rick Gausmann, Darlene Heinz
Young Adult Rep: position open

Committee Members:

Debbie Gausmann: Formation; Larry Kervella: Youth Ministry Representative, Dave Stallard: Worship; Dave Stallard: Knights of Columbus; Jim Hines: Social Justice; Community and New Evangelization Open

Visitor: (set up and run Zoom): Denis Howorth

Absent:

Parish Council Representatives:

Kathy Stocchetti, Lindsay Lockett

Call to Order

Opening Prayer and reflection: Larry Kervella

Faith Formation: Read Building Tools (chapter 8-12; pages 41-59)

Debbie summarized the reading for this section

- The church in the reading wanted to build since they didn't have enough space, they didn't have the funds so they worked on space allocation
- When looking at your parish consider the following (included are our answers):
 - Is your space open and accessible? YES
 - Is your space vibrant and alive? YES
 - When entering, is it clear where to go? Depends on where you enter. May need to identify the office and annex
 - Is the space clean? YES
 - Does it need paint? YES
 - Parking lot marked? YES – recently done by Isaac Nieman as a boy scout Eagle project
 - What does the entrance say? Think it is welcoming
 - Restrooms clean? YES
 - Reduce distractions during mass/seating latecomers: Have specific times for seating people
 - Is there a place for families? YES
 - Children Using restrooms? Parents should accompany for safety
 - Greeters? YES

Approval of Minutes for February 2020: Minutes approved as written

Old Business:

- **At large voting for parish council members – Barry**

Barry indicated that they were all set to move forward with elections before the shutdown, though no one had signed up to run for Parish Council. We could continue to work on recruiting people to run. It was decided to re-start the election cycle February 2021 (postpone the elections for a year), and all Parish Council Members will remain in place for an extra year.

- **Funeral Planning Workshop – Nate**

It is believed that there is still interest in this type of workshop – especially now. Nate has worked on the workshop and is ready to move forward when we are allowed to have it. After a bit of discussion, it was decided to move forward and do the workshop as an online activity (Zoom) and also record it for people to be able to view offline. We want to have 3 to 4 speakers: Funeral director, Legal representative to talk about wills and estate planning, and Liturgy (Planning the funeral) and a Q&A session. Nate will work on this and put it together. Father Bob and Lori will handle the Liturgy aspects, Debbie will monitor the chat Q&A, David Stallard may know someone who can do the legal section, and the funeral director is already on board to do this.

- **Parish maintenance – roof – Lance**

Lance has put together a worksheet to compare quotes. A total of 8 contractors were contacted to give a quote for the work. Only 2 of the 8 were willing to provide a quote. We currently have one quote and are waiting for the second. The other contractors declined to give quotes due to lack of experience with our particular roof, or they are currently too busy. The Parish is also looking at 3rd party testing to test the roof after repairs are completed to be sure there are no leaks. They are planning on using the company that evaluated what work needed to be done to do the 3rd party testing.

Committee Reports:

New Evangelization: Nate reported

Except for the Funeral workshop there is nothing else in the plans for now.

Community: Sheila reported

House Churches:

- House churches have not met, but have stayed in touch by passing on information, calling to check on each other, or to bid farewell or congratulations to members
- Some members of the house churches have helped the Newsome Bailey Project by supplying food and/or money for food to help out the families during the pandemic
- House Church Valmoore/Westover will have a zoom meeting in September. They have enjoyed the streaming mass, and all can hear Father just fine with the mask on. Some think people should keep on their masks for the homily as well as singing.

Prayer Chain:

- 454 prayer requests, 42 since pandemic lockdown

Social Justice: Jim Hines

- I have been meeting online with Rachael Lastrup from the Office of Social Ministries Catholic Diocese of Richmond. We have discussed Prison ministry, Race relations and several other topics. Most of the time is spent in prayer, fellowship and getting to know the Social Ministers from the Diocese.
- We received two letters praising our help with the Newsome Bailey Project. The first is from Bobby and Donna Walsh from St Kateri for our help with the food delivery. The second letter mentions the parish donation to the project.

Good evening all,

Donna and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your spirit-filled generosity in assisting the Newsome Bailey Project making 8 bi-weekly food deliveries to the Newport News East families and Spratley House shut-ins. The final food donation delivery will be made tomorrow Friday June 5. Amen!

A special Three Cheers and Shoutout to our own St. Kateri Knights of Columbus **Jim Hines**: Jim has been assisting John Crawley on site at the Peninsula Community Chapel with the food packing and delivery. **Jim** thank you for serving your community.

John Crawley from Peninsula community chapel writes:

Yes, we are on track for the food delivery tomorrow. This week I spent about **\$650** of donations on groceries-- the majority of this money coming from St. Kateri. You helped us to persevere right up to the end of this effort. If, however, there are still families in financial and nutritional distress, we will of course continue to meet that need.

I hope to get a good night's rest before tomorrow's surge. I know you will keep us in prayer all day. Many blessings to you, Donna, and the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Community.

Your brother in Christ, John

- **PORT:**

Ray Mineck will continue to organize the donations and volunteer spots. For both dinner and breakfast preparation, it is vital that there be someone familiar with the menu and food preparation.

For PORT 2020, I suggest that St. Kateri support just one evening/morning PORT on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Since some parishioners are not here over Thanksgiving, they can volunteer for any of the three PORT dates supported by St. Vincent de Paul church as I do.

- **Prison Ministry**

All Kairos prison ministry activities have been postponed since March 2020.

- **Food Pantry/Thrift Shop (Elaine Riley)**

While the Covid19 Pandemic rages throughout our country, we must be thankful, that so far, we have been spared what many other states have not. We pray for those who have died, their families and friends, for those who are currently sick, for all essential workers, and especially for our healthcare workers who are in a daily struggle to abate this terrible disease.

The Thrift Shop is now open, after being shut down for an extended period. The Food Pantry has remained open, although with limited hours since March. Currently, the Pantry is open on Monday and Friday, 10AM – 12:30PM. Thankfully, we have wonderful volunteers who made keeping the pantry open possible.

I would like to gratefully thank all those who have so generously contributed to the pantry, enabling us to buy in bulk even when grocery supplies were low and our access to the Food Bank was limited.

DONATIONS:

If anyone would like to donate directly to the pantry, make check payable to The Parish Thrift Shop, Inc., put “Food Pantry” in the memo line and mail to PO Box 2019, Poquoson VA 23662.

We are now accepting grocery donations for the pantry, Monday through Friday; 10AM to 4PM through the back gate.

For anyone in Poquoson or York county requiring food, the pantry is open Monday and Friday only, 10AM – 12:30PM.

The Thrift Shop is open for business with limited hours, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10AM -4PM.

We have taken many steps for safety for our volunteers and customers. Masks are required in the store, NO EXCEPTIONS. We have installed UV Blue Light Air Scrubbers in the ducts and in the shop to clean and sanitize the air, carts are sanitized, and social distancing is required.

We are accepting donations for the thrift shop through our donation gate Monday through Saturday, 9AM – 4:30PM. We do not accept donations on Sunday's or Holiday's. On behalf of all our volunteers, Thank You!

- **Haiti Twinning Committee:**

For 2020, the Student sponsorship program has brought in: \$31333 in student sponsorships, \$20104 in the 5k Run for the Sun, \$806 in memorial gifts. We have sponsored 238 students (199 Primary and 39 Secondary). The Haiti schools are currently suspended due to the virus and they are waiting to schedule the end of year exams.

- **Ecology (Pete Egan)**

A group of Parishioners came together to study Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si, Care for Creation a few years ago. Afterwards we came together to see if there was something we could do to more fully involve the parish in deciding what we could do. We haven't as yet come up with a plan as we are still figuring out what is feasible. COVID-19 has further delayed this process.

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We have 10 members whom I send emails on a variety of topics. Catholic Climate Conference, recycling, renewable energy, conservation related issue such as reducing the impacts of flooding in our area, climate impacts to the environment, webinars on these topics sponsored by a number of conservation organizations, etc.

Some local parishes have done projects on solar energy as a means of reducing their carbon footprint. We are going to look into this and find out the feasibility of such an endeavour

- **Other Ministries**

- St Vincent's-No Report
- Lackey Free Clinic - Monetary Support
- Menchville House- Monetary Support
- **Diocese Bicentennial:** As part of the celebration, the Diocese would like all the parishes to have a social justice outreach from September 22- October 4. Our parish is considering doing an underwear drive. We would accept donations of packaged (new) underwear during this time and donate it.

Formation: Debbie Gausmann & Larry Kervella

- First Communion will be celebrated two consecutive Saturdays at 11 AM (August 22 and August 29).
- Confirmation will be celebrated August 26 (Wednesday) at 6:30 PM
- Adult Faith Formation: Three groups currently meeting: That Man is You, RCIA, and Monday night study on nonviolence and justice. The RCIA is studying the Sunday readings using "At Home with the Word". They are using Zoom and hope to keep this up after they join the church.
- Youth: Opportunities for the youth are being posted on Facebook – webinars and activities. Two parish boy scouts have done projects for the parish as their Eagle scout project. Isaac Nieman marked and painted the parking lot, and Calvin Nieman added plants and borders around the meditation garden flower beds, built benches and mulched. He also pressure cleaned the white fence that blocks the A/C unit.
- Children: MaryBeth is taking some time off but has already done the preliminary work for fall but waiting to see what happens. Debbie will be filling in and will have an assistant to help with the programs.

- Mission trips for this year were cancelled. Monies were either returned or held for next year.
- Trunk or Treat is still being planned but will most likely have modifications for safety.
- Priority for this year – get the sacramental program back up and running
 - Baptism prep will be online done by Ascension press. After parents complete the prep, they will meet with Debbie to set up the baptism.
 - First Communion: Parents education will be done first and then have a program for the children (looking at online)
 - Confirmation: This will remain at the church where there is plenty of room to spread out.

Knights of Columbus: Dave Stallard

Trees have been taken down and the Knights will be cleaning up the tree debris for firewood. Other possible activities will be listed under New Business so it can be acted on as conditions allow.

Administration/Facilities: Lori Yankoski

- The parish has made 3 separate \$5000 donations to our area food pantries (including the Parish Thrift Shop/Pantry)
- Parish has been reaching out to parishioners by calling each parishioner (or most).
- As a way to help stay connected with our parishioners, the parish is looking into Flock Notes as a way to contact people. We are starting with the parish council and all parish council members are asked to sign into flock notes by texting STKATPPC to 84576. This will allow Lori to contact parish council members quickly via text and will hopefully increase our ability to communicate with each other. This will hopefully be expanded to the entire parish eventually.
- To help engage parishioners and bring them back to church it was suggested that we could collect food at the parish for food drives.
- Blood Drive: The parish is sponsoring a blood drive at the church on August 14 from 2 – 7 PM. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome also.
- Collections are starting to fall off. Parishioners are encouraged to make sustaining donations.
- We'd like to see more people back in the church at the Masses

Worship: David Stallard

- David Stallard is scheduling lectors and ushers for the two Masses. Currently, the ushers are primarily from the K of C with wives helping. We keep asking for additional people, but few are willing to step forward with the current situation. Lectors are from the three Mass lists. Same situation in that few are willing to step forward.
- Scheduling has been a week at a time.
- Mass numbers: The Saturday 5:30 PM Mass has been running about 30 people, and the Sunday 11 AM Mass is about 40 people, with a max number of 55.

New Business:

- **Covid and the Parish:** Updates from the diocese. The parish has webinars regularly with the diocese. The current rules are updated regularly and currently are:
 - Parishes can only have a certain percentage of seats filled. For our parish, the max is now 150 people.
 - For the sacraments (first communion, confirmation) families can sit together
 - Cannot carpool if the driving takes more than 15 minutes (for staff and volunteers)
 - Catholic schools will open with students in classrooms August 24
 - Singing not allowed except for cantor (and Lori)
 - Communion (the body) can now be distributed by the priest, deacon, and lay people. No cup.

- No worship aids or handouts will be available
- No food served unless it is prepackaged
- No on-site receptions
- Keep social distancing on church property
- Children under 10 can be mask free
- No group pictures
- All is subject to change
- Knights want to find ways and help bring people back to church: The knights would like to keep their scholarship program going. To do this, they need to raise funds through donations/activities. Things that are being considered (when allowed) are:
 - Have an outdoor hamburger/hot dog get together
 - Walk-in Movie theater on the church grounds. Could sell boxed candy and sodas (in closed containers), or families could bring their own food.
 - No Oktoberfest at this point, but they are considering to have take-out (when allowed)
- Weekend Mass – to encourage involvement:
 - Could post the announcements (what’s happening) before the Mass and after the Mass.
 - Encourage sustained giving
 - There will be more announcements made now that activities are starting up again.
- Security in the Parish: It may be time to look at security again to ensure that those at the church are in a safe environment. We should look at awareness and what to look for. It was thought that we might do a security assessment and work with the Sheriff’s department to see what we could or should be doing. Rick will contact the Sheriff’s department and arrange for someone to assess what we have and do and present ideas to the parish council. From there we will decide what needs to be done – perhaps train the ushers and/or greeters.

Pastors Remarks: Addressed items during reports

Action Items:

- All members: Recruit people to run for Parish Council
- Rick Gausmann: recruit sheriff
- Nate Garn: Complete funeral workshop and set date
- David Stallard: Work with Nate to find a presenter for the legal aspects of funerals
- Debbie and David coordinate the set up for the first communion and confirmation celebrations
- All members: Join flock notes. Send a text to: 84576 send the message: STKATPPC to this text number
- All members: Prepare for faith formation for September by reading: Building Tools Chapters 13-19, pages 63 – 85.

Volunteer to lead opening prayer: Jim Hines

Next PPC meeting: Wednesday, August 12, 2020; 7PM Church Alcove

Closing Prayer – Our Father

Adjournment