

Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

May 12, 2021 7PM

Zoom Meeting

Members:

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer

Lori Yankoski

Parish Council Representatives:

Lance Solaroli, Mary Egan, Rick Gausmann, Nate Garn, Darlene Heinz, Rick Sowell, Kathy Stocchetti

Committee Members:

Debbie Gausmann: Formation; Larry Kervella: Youth Ministry Representative, Jim Hines: Social Justice; Community and New Evangelization Open

Staff: Denis Howorth

Absent:

Parish Council Representatives:

Barry Yachem (excused), Melissa Madrigal

Young Adult Rep: position open

Committee Members:

Dave Stallard

Call to Order

Opening Prayer: Jim Hines

Presentation:

The Knights of Columbus Council 17189 donated a monstrance to St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church at the start of the meeting. Presentation made by Grand Knight Rick Sowell and accepted by Fr. Bob. The Council 17189 and the state council also presented Father Bob with a gift card for Father's support for the Knights.

Faith Formation: Read Building Tools (chapter 255-297 completed the book).

This part of the book sums up what they've already discussed and encourages us to Celebrate the wins you (as a parish and as individuals) have. Some of the points to remember are:

- A win is any positive movement one has towards Christ and His church. Anytime someone comes to worship – it's a win. Someone starts using online giving – that's a win. Someone starts serving in a ministry or starts taking a faith formation class – that's a win. We could start each parish council meeting with the wins we've seen. Some of the wins seen lately are:
 - Young father joined the parish and is serving as a Eucharistic Minister – feels at home here.
 - Finishing up the Adult Faith formation class, 40 enrolled, 33-35 at each session.
 - People say they enjoy the music at mass
 - Met a person new to the area at work and talked with them about St. Kateri
- Need to thank people for what they do and for their support. Maybe could have a volunteer or employee of the month on the parish web site to recognize their good work.
- People like to have fun and like fun places to be.
- We need to know the authority that we are under
- Everything takes longer than you think: discern, be patient, be positive.
- Counsel wisely – Advise the pastor regarding parish life
- Stop trying to make people come to church and make church matter.

We have applied some ideas from the books we've worked through (Building Tools), and we need to keep those ideas in mind – we need to do these things.

Review/Approval of March 2021 Minutes: Minutes approved

Committee Reports:

New Evangelization: Open: Nate Garn

This is now more of a church community group. We need to evangelize by example. This Man Is You is a good example of how the community is evangelizing and reaching out. Much of the current Diocese New Evangelization is focused on Youth and Young Adults. Currently this committee is looking for things to help energize the parish.

Community: Open

• House Churches: (Sheila Horan)

- HC Woodlake & HC Coventry – Sheila Horan
HC Woodlake Crossing, Coventry, Running man has a study of the Word to prepare for Sunday worship on Thursdays at 7PM via Zoom. We continue to meet monthly on the second Saturday of the month at 7:30 PM and are currently studying the Sacraments with Bishop Barron. No masks are required for either event.
- HC Valmoore & HC Westover – Angela Render, Debbie Scott, Karol Clark
We had our zoom tonight Wednesday night. Six families showed up. It is manageable with 6. Sometimes with double that it was less effective. We are concerned that so many are too comfortable with at home participation. One member indicated that his desire is that we should do whatever it takes or whatever can be done to bring people back.

• Green Thumb: (Darrell Cofsky)

- The number of people who support the Green Thumb ministry is small. The few that show up have done good things in a small timeframe. Thankfully, Dennis and Kilcha Kennedy work all the time. They have bought a lot of flowers and the grounds look great. All of the flowers and the mulch has been donated.
- Special work days to align with teen work days is a great help, although this year most of the teens are working on a project at the annex. Their support is always welcome.
- The cost of these things should be in the budget so that in the future they may be accounted for. One of the green thumb folks suggested that the parish establish a green thumb category for electronic tithing / supporting on the website
- The remaining large job is clearing the wooded area adjacent to the parking lot. The plan is to create a very large pile and then get a truck to clear it.
- Both trees given to us from our sister parish are doing well. They are called Ebony and Ivory Crepe Myrtle trees as they reflect our support of our dark-skinned brothers and sisters in Haiti. (Dark leaves and white flowers). In a few years they will be beautiful. They are planted on the right side of the side walk as you walk to the office entrance.

• Prayer Chain: (Sheila Horan)

The Prayer chain has 21 members praying daily. There have been 561 prayer requests since we started six years ago.

• Calling Elderly in our Parish: (Lynn Kenneally)

This ministry still contacts a few people on our lists who liked the check ins...many are out and about and returning to church. Some Easter cards were out.

Social Justice: Jim Hines

With all the work the social ministers have done you would not know that we are in a pandemic. Thanks to the assistance of Virginia Cotter and Claudia we now have our parish social ministries listed on the parish web page.

- **PORT:**

PORT for 2020-2021 ended on March 31. There are no activities to report for St. Kateri since February. PORT will send out requests to parishes for support for 2021-2022 sometime this summer.

- **Haiti:**

The Haiti Committee continues to meet every third Wednesday, 6:30 pm, via Zoom. Some committee members will be attending the Zoom Haiti Eastern Regional Gathering on May 22.

- **Emergency Assistance Fund:**

The Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Emergency Assistance Fund is on hold till probably September. We need to work with the Diocese to properly set up the program and the Diocesan contact is currently too busy working on budgets but work is progressing to make this contact and get the information that is needed.

- **Ecology:** (Pete Egan)

In March and April, sent out 23 emails notifying Ministry Members of web programs hosted by 15 separate organizations. Topics covered a wide range of either climate, clean energy, environmental justice, native plants, invasive plants, plant sales and recycling. Each of the organizations spoke either of their efforts taken to Care for our Common Home or Human Fraternity and Solidarity.

- **Menchville House**

Our parish just took up a collection for the house.

- **Prison Ministry**

Absent physical visits, we are sending birthday cards to all Kairos graduates at Sussex II. On May 22 we start our “no contact” reunions where the men inside and the volunteers outside conduct simultaneous reunion programs with identical content. No word from VA Dept of Corrections on when we will be allowed back inside.

Formation: Debbie Gausmann

- The Youth groups have just finished up for the year and are working on a garden by the Annex – they should finish that up May 15.
- Over the past year, we’ve had 200 adults participating in adult faith formation in some way (some may be repeats). This includes Monday Faith Formation (on Revelation and then The Mass), Breaking Open the Word, That Man Is You, Women’s Scripture group, Formed (available to individuals for study), and Sacramental Prep.
- Summer Adult Faith Formation will focus on Social Justice issues, this summer it will be Poverty and Scripture.
- Vacation Bible School will happen this summer – in person (but back-up to in person is ready if needed)
- Catholic Heart (The Young neighbors and Just 5 Days) will be able to take 40 people next summer (2022). Cove Crest would also be a possibility for next year.

Knights of Columbus: Dave Stallard

- Change of command and election of officers will take place June 5. Bill Karaktin will be the Grand Knight.

Administration/Facilities: Lance Solaroli or Lori Yankoski

- Roof work has been completed, and the improvements are already making a positive difference. Some additional damage has been found and is being addressed. Still working on getting an estimate and getting the caulking done. REI has done a good job.
- After the roof work is completed, we need to move on to the next major focus – looking at the wants, needs, and functions of the parish in terms of space utilization. Older plans are available in the parish office and can act as a starting point.
 - Denis has been doing a great job taking care things in general.
 - We need to set up a budget to allocate funds for the upkeep and maintenance of the parish and grounds (to plan for the future)
 - The diocese has a group that will look at solar and lighting needs for a parish and it is recommended that we have them give us their input.
 - Repainting the worship area – hasn't been done since built; expensive due to size and scaffolding needed.

Worship: David Stallard

- Discussed the services for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Holy Thursday - Went well. Father Bob did a great job tying everything together. Adoration seemed very good with the chairs around it. Good Friday – Went well. Individuals that presented the Cross did a super job. Easter Vigil – Problems with when the lights were turned on and when altar candles were to be lit. Gathering the candles was a bit clumsy. Jim Hines did a great job with the fire. Lectors were very good. Deacon Phil did a good job with the Exalted. Easter – Went well. Darlene and her committee did a wonderful job with the decorations.
- Pentecost – There will be three Masses, all in English. No outside Mass this year. Encourage people to wear red.
- Discussed going to two lectors at each Mass – no for now.
- Discussed doing a social distancing/no touching “Sign of Peace” – no for now.
- Servers will return to Mass in the September time frame. Between now and then there will be recruiting and training. For now, Debbie will be the focal point.
- Debbie will provide a Liturgy Formation schedule for the summer. There will be a video series explaining why things are done at Mass. Worship committee and ministers are encouraged to attend.
- For Mass Coordinators – do not take the Easter Candle out of the holder. Use a step stool/ladder when lighting before Mass.
- Mass coordinators are to provide a list of ministers to Lori.

On Going Business:

- How do we invite/encourage parishioners to come back to Church in-person?
- Rick will meet with the new parish council members on May 26th to welcome them and answer any questions they have. Members of the council are also welcome to come.

Pastors Remarks:

Need to form a committee to work on the structure of our building and how space is used and consider the restrictions we have here (wet lands protection and area buffer, and any other state requirements). What are our priorities and financial restrictions?

Action Items

- Think up ideas/ways to invite and encourage people to come back to Church in-person. What can we do to help the parish within our restrictions?
- Some ideas brought up already:

- Could pass out St. Kateri business cards to people we meet which would include the parish website and phone number.
- Put up a Welcome Back sign
- Mass in the Grass and picnic (in September), if possible
- Trunk or treat, if possible
- October Fest – in some form
- Send out postcards with a catchy saying (Christ is Waiting for you) to invite people back.
- If we wanted to get the get house churches working again, perhaps the 6-week Rick Warren class, 40 Days of Purpose book as mentioned on Page 288 of our Tools for Rebuilding book might be encouraged. Authors report it was very successful and it's a short commitment to get people regrouped and connected again.

Opening prayer at next meeting: Kathy Stocchetti

Next PPC meeting: June 9, 2021; 7PM; Zoom or live

Closing Prayer – Our Father

Adjourn