

Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

December 1, 2021 7PM

In person and Zoom Meeting

Members:

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer

Parish Council Representatives:

Nate Garn, Rick Sowell, Kathy Stocchetti, Mary Egan, Rick Gausmann, Darlene Heinz, Jose Ortiz, Gigi Nieman; Young Adult Rep (Open)

Committee Members:

Debbie Gausmann: Formation; Jim Hines: Social Justice; Community and New Evangelization
Open

Staff: Denis Howorth

Deacon Phil Wilkinson

Absent Members:

Rita Smith, excused

Lori Yankoski

Lance Solaroli: Facilities

Larry Kervella: Youth

David Stallard: Worship

Call to Order

Opening Prayer: Jose Ortiz

Faith Formation: Read Chapter Three of Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly Jose Ortiz will lead

- Chapter 3 is on study and learning. The challenge is for each of us to read daily. Increase the holiness in yourself and you become a better version of yourself. The book had several questions to consider including: Is there more to Catholicism than attending mass? How can we challenge ourselves to be better versions of ourselves?
- What time in your life have you been hungry for answers? Some answers:
 - Times of loss, sadness or uncertainty
 - When trying to explain something. One might not have the answer. Knowledge leads to wisdom
 - Can't learn everything. Not knowing is an opportunity to work on it together.
- What is the best Catholic book you have read? Some answers:
 - Thomas Merton – The Seven Storey Mountain
 - The Life of Christ by Bishop Fulton Sheen
 - The Bible Timeline
 - The Holy Longing
 - John Shea's books
 - Joseph Girzone's books
- What questions about Catholicism do you want the answers to and how are you going to find the answers? Some answers:
 - Look up keywords in the Catholic Catechism
 - How are the Catholic church leaders promoting tolerance?
 - Relativism (no right answers, what you think is OK) – makes it harder to know how to respond. One can share one's thoughts and why you think that. The church teaches that

there are some absolutes. We need to dig deeper to know more. Some topics that fit here are abortion, anything with ethics is challenging. Vatican II provided for people to have an informed conscious and make a decision. (How is this different than relativism? – the informed conscious includes the churches teachings and includes God; If one's decision is against something – there may be penalties associated with that decision). For more on moral conscience see Catholic Catechism starting at paragraph 1776.

- Was there a time in your life when you weren't interested in finding the answers? Some answers:
 - Global Warming – need to know about it to make informed decisions. Find out what the church says (Laudto Si)
 - Handout Re-Discover Catholicism every year at Christmas

Review/Approval of November Minutes – approved with minor corrections

Committee Reports:

- **New Evangelization:** Open
Nothing new to report
- **Community:** Open
Nothing new to report
- **Social Justice:** Jim Hines:
Busy time of year with the port and 5K. I attended a diocese meeting on Assisted Catholic living ministries in the diocese. Monthly costs are high and it's hard to find help. St Francis in Richmond has 85 beds filled and could handle 25 more residents if they could hire the staff. We also heard from the neighbors program in Richmond. The neighbors program provided volunteer assistance to the elderly and others who need assistance. All of our ministry's programs can use more help – especially people.
 - Haiti Twinning Ministry
 - Run/Walk with the Son for Haiti 5k:
 - * Haiti 5K is this weekend, Dec. 4. All events are going to be held outdoors in the first section of the parking lot. Raffle tickets sold on line. Silent Auction on Race Day.
 - * We still need volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up. Set-up starts at 7 a.m. and clean up at 11:30. Please check with Virginia Cotter, vlcotter@verizon.net, if interested. We have approximately 260 runners for the 5K.
 - * Received a letter from Bishop Desinord Jean – see attached following minutes
 - * Connie Topp, one of the 5K pioneers wrote a very nice article on the race and St. Kateri's Haiti Ministry in Smoke Signal, the Running Man newsletter. The article is posted on the Haiti bulletin board.
 - Student Sponsorship Program:
 - * Our online Student Sponsorship Drive begins Dec. 4. Postcards have been mailed to all parish families.
 - * Due to Haiti travel restrictions, St. Michel is taking the student photos for this year's sponsorship. We expect to receive photos in December. Please contact Judy Townsend at judy.townsend@verizon.net, or 757-876-2417 if interested in getting a student photo. Sponsorships make great gifts!
 - Kairos: The Kairos team will be meeting December 4th virtually with the prisoners in residence.
 - Port:
 - Ray would really like a planning helper for Port. He's put in a lot of years.

- Port kept 54 people out of 34-degree weather and had very strong support from the parish. The next PORT is the last week in January.
- Emergency Assistance Program
 - The SKT-EAP Fund currently has \$4,099.95 available. We were able to help a widow (57) with her utility bills and prevent one from being cut off, we paid off 3 and part of a 4th for a total of \$300. She was a referral from the United Way of the Virginia Peninsula.
 - The EAP is working on two more situations where help is needed. This is a new program, and we need to let people know it's up and running.
- Ecology Report
 - Since the last Parish Council Meeting emails were sent to the group
 - * Links to 2 articles related to Climate Change.
 - * Links to 2 Georgetown's Institute on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life panel discussions.
 - * A Link to a Yorktown event for household chemicals/computer recycling collections and shredding.
 - * A Link to Virginia State Parks highlighting fall foliage viewing.

- **Formation:** Debbie Gausmann/Larry Kervella
Nothing new to report
- **Knights of Columbus:** Dave Stallard
Nothing new to report
- **Administration/Facilities:** Lance Solaroli/Lori Yankoski
Nothing new to report
- **Worship:** David Stallard
Nothing new to report

On Going Business:

- **Security**
 - Plans are taking shape to have security for the parish.
 - Still waiting on bids
 - ADT: \$6k down and \$265/month for 36 months and will provide monitoring, tech support, 6 outside cameras, and 2 inside cameras
 - Details left to parish staff
 - Internet is available in the annex
- **Date and advertising plan for Synod input to the Diocese - Nate, Rita**
 - Tuesday, January 18th is the date for our parish to meet for input for the Synod.
 - This event is open to all parishioners
 - Nate & Rita will work on advertising the event and getting it set up.
- **Start date and plan for Coffee and Cookies – Nate**
 - Coffee and cookies will be available after the 8:30AM and 11AM masses starting the second Sunday of Advent (Dec 5)
 - Currently have 3 teams of bakers for cookies. Could use more bakers and more people to help serve.
 - Cookies will be separately bagged and individually distributed
 - Children can not bring food into the religious ed. classes

- ***Kitchen Operation*** - Angela Karaktin has agreed to be in charge of organizing and stocking the kitchen. She will coordinate with the staff for supplies and requirements. The Kitchen Operation is separate from and does not fall under **Coffee and Cookies** nor **The Hospitality Committee**.
- **Status and plan for Hospitality Committee – Kathy**
 - Needs to recruit more people, but plans are to be ready to support the Parish Lenten Soup Supper (will do the serving). Will need to work on who supplies the soups.
 - Would like to start up funeral receptions. Will need to keep it simple and have people serve the food. If we can't have food in the church, may start to provide food to take to the family

Pastors Remarks

Nothing to add

Action Items

- **Gigi Nieman:** Prepare the faith formation for Chapter 4 and opening and closing prayers.
- **Nate Garn and Rita Smith:** Work on publicizing for synod
- **ALL:** Prep for the meeting by reading chapter 4 of Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic

Opening prayer at next meeting: Gigi Nieman

Next PPC meeting: January 12, 2022; 7PM; Zoom

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Bishop's Letter:

Oct 20, 2021

My Brothers and Sisters , I send you warm greetings from the Diocese of Hinche, especially from your friends in Boucan Carré. I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Fr Bob Spencer, the Haiti Committee, and the parishioners for your generous support to the people of Boucan Carré.

We are grateful to all who carry us in their hearts and prayers and to all who provide their support which is crucial to us. However, we ask them to think about changing the paradigm, while continuing to help us, above all to help us so that we can help ourselves. A friend of mine loves to use this image: Imagine the position of the hands of the one who gives and that of the one who receives, at a certain point in the relationship, this position must evolve so that the recipient feels valued by developing and the position of the hands of the two parties becomes a handshake. The one who is used to receiving feels more dignity and is ready to turn his hand to give in turn, showing solidarity with others who are in need. This is the pattern we intend to create in the Diocese of Hinche when we set up, with the guidance of the Catholic Leadership Institute, the Strategic Plan for our diocese. We involve all the parishes in this dynamic by seeking to involve all the partners who support them so that their commitment has more impact. Today is hard for your brothers and sisters in Haiti. With Faith and a shared vision, we can lead them to a better tomorrow. Please join us on this journey.

As I have just said, the journey that you undertook alongside the parish of Saint Michel de Boucan Carré lasts more than 20 years now. A long journey made of understanding and respect. It is a living sign of the gospel that Jesus Christ left us. Your support and commitment continue to make a difference in the life of the community. More children have the chance to go to school, more people can benefit from health care, and more people are touched by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Boucan Carré and all these chapels would not have been what they are now without your unwavering support. And we are very, very grateful to you.

Continue to keep Haiti in your prayers, continue to support your brothers and sisters in Boucan Carré and get involved with us in the new paradigm that we are establishing in the Diocese of Hinche.

May God bless you all!

Desinord Jean

Bishop of Hinche