

**THE SOUTHEAST ROCHESTER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**  
**Blessed Sacrament, Saint Boniface and Saint Mary's**  
**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Monday, May 23, 2022**  
**via Zoom and in person**

MEETING MINUTES

**Attendees:** Fr. John, Cory Wirt, Amy Voelkl, Bernie Heveron, Jim Holleran, Liz Clarke, Julie Miller, Dick Kilmartin, Shirley Cirillo

Absent: Fr. Mike, Karin Gaffney, Amanda Rayburn, Patricia Marks, Pat Morriss

Finance Council: Steve Anderson (SB), Rick McGrath (SM)

1. Opening Prayer: Fr. John
  - a. Meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes for November Meeting
  - a. Liz approved; Julie seconded. Unanimously approved
3. Check-in
  - a. Steve: Floor under pew in St. Boniface looking dirty, dusty
  - b. Diane: Thanks to Amanda for submitting minutes last month in my absence
  - c. Liz: Gardens look wonderful at St. Mary's
  - d. Fr. John: Thanks for your patience as his father and two good friends died all within days of each other
4. Chair Updates
  - a. Interested Discerners (three open 3-year term positions) Two people per parish said yes to discernment night
    - i. Blessed Sacrament – Jessica Gaspar, Kathleen Whelehan; have not heard from Larry Garney or Walter Igharas
    - ii. St. Boniface – Ed Schmitt, Mary Pinsky, Donnell Adler
    - iii. St. Boniface – Kathy Little, Mario Montalbo
    - iv. Results:
      1. St. Mary's- Mario Montalbo
      2. St. Boniface- Ed Schmitt
      3. Blessed Sacrament- Kathleen Whelehan
  - b. Planning for June Meeting
    - i. Will copy last year's meeting with a short business meeting and then dinner and an icebreaker with new members.
    - ii. Monday, June 27, 2022, at the Dugan Center
  - c. Thanks to outgoing members for their punctual return of facilities report binder so that we can pass the reports on to new members.
5. Pastor Update
  - a. Census Committee on hold
  - b. Emerging from COVID
    - i. Still no holy water

- ii. Would like to start collection with ushers, but would need to find and train them first
    - c. Diocesan bankruptcy
      - i. Diocese is waiting for the judge to reinstate the stay
      - ii. Media has reported that Diocese is proposing a settlement with victims.
    - d. Assignments: Parochial Vicar
      - i. Fr. Mike will be serving at St. Marianne Cope Parish in Henrietta
      - ii. Fr. John Omboga is coming to us on or about June 28 from the Diocese of Ngong in Kenya. He has served in our diocese before, studying at St. John Fisher and residing at Our Lady of the Lakes in Penn Yan.
        - 1. Amy is glad that we don't have worry about mass times changing because of having only one priest.
        - 2. Rick asks if we could go to 6 masses a weekend, but Fr. John says we do not have enough music ministers.
6. Ministries Taskforce
- i. a) Discussion of staff reports returned so far – Anything missing/incomplete in individual reports?
  - ii. b) How do you think we should promote parishioner engagement in ministries?
    - 1. Coming out of Covid, are volunteers excited to come back?
    - 2. Staff gave status of ministries at today's staff meeting
      - a. Challenge to bring back ministry, do it as we have always done it or is it time to move on?
    - 3. Amy: Can we sustain a ministry if people are not rushing back to mass?
      - a. Fr. John: if there doesn't seem to be enough interest in a ministry and it is not crucial to the aim of the church, we should let it go.
      - b. Can we do a parish survey?
    - 4. Rick: Ministry should indicate the amount of commitment is expected
    - 5. Cory: Directory needs to be updated
      - a. Ministries that were once strong have been seriously altered by Covid:
        - i. E.g., Youth ministry, Young Adult ministry, Liturgy of the Word
  - iii. How should we engage our Rochester community?
    - 1. Renew our hospitality efforts with greeters,
    - 2. Rick: Positivity from the pulpit. Fr. Ed thanked congregation for coming together to share the Eucharist.
      - a. Suggests asking "old guard" parishioners to invite a friend to mass
      - b. Weave welcoming throughout liturgy
      - c. Not just the priest's responsibility but the whole community
    - 3. Amy: time to start introducing each other to person next to you. Always done at St. Mary's
7. Minimum Needs Analysis (Julie Miller)

- a. Updates
  - b. How do we move forward with engaging our parish with the concepts we have been contemplating?
    - i. Cory: Email what we are hearing from parishioner to Fr. John
    - ii. Amy: reformat ministry directory and prioritize which ministries are still viable
      - 1. Will follow up and share this with council
  - c. Our parish in 3 words- PPC said: welcoming, community, social justice/service
  - d. "Five items in the lifeboat"- PPC said: Eucharist, Music Ministry, lifelong spirituality/faith formation, social justice, community and social.
  - e. What people miss the most about parish life:
    - i. Dick: Coffee Hours, Men's Club
      - 1. Fr. John hopes to resume coffee hours at all three churches in the Fall.
    - ii. Fr. John: just met with Men's Club Executive Committee and they are going ahead with some activities such as the Golf Tournament and Pasta Dinner.
      - 1. 6 board members are not ready to return or are not returning so the membership will need to recruit volunteers from the parish to help with these events.
    - iii. Dick: Are we truly out of Covid?
      - 1. Fr. John: We what to consider that we need to live with it.
        - a. Try to be as accommodating for those fearful of Covid.
        - b. If we don't plan for a surge in cases, then how will we function?
8. Facilities Taskforce
- a. In the past year we have made considerable progress with the Facilities Task Force. Progress has been much slower in the past few months. Here is an update of what has happened since the April meeting:
    - i. Mark Ocwiega has completed his walk through at St. Boniface (4/21) and will be moving on to St. Mary's to put figures on the cost to make the repairs noted during the volunteer walk-throughs. The St. Boniface report is not yet available.
    - ii. Conifer- completed the walk through at the St. Boniface campus on 5/5. All of the buildings would best be repurposed as housing. There were remarkable features such as wood and windows that were of interest. Conifer would not be able to do a new project for 2- 5 years, so they recommend we consult other companies. They also recommend obtaining real estate valuations of the properties. There has not been a walk through scheduled for St. Mary's.
    - iii. We are in communication with Pathstone to look at alternative uses for buildings on all three campuses. A preliminary meeting will take place in early June to convey the "broad elements" to Pathstone before they will come on site.
9. Closing Prayer: Fr. John, Hail Mary for the month of May
- a. meeting finished at 8:30p.m.

Next Meeting: June 27 at the Dugan Center at St. Mary's

Opening Prayer: Dick Kilmartin