

## **St. Catherine's Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes May 9, 2022**

Attended by: Dotse Sogah, Jonathan Lunine, Diane Bradac, Mary Crosley, Mary Kay LaLonde, Sue Hyatt, Tom Dunn, Poppy McLeod, Mary Hutchens

Guests: Michael Twomey, Rich Rasmussen, Sherry Scanza, Bob Brown, Mary Lou Bailey

1. **Opening Prayer:** Jonathan (Prayer of Trust and Confidence)
2. **Approval of April Minutes**  
The Minutes were approved. (Sue/Mary C.)
3. **Follow-up: Actionable Items from Previous Meeting**
  - a. Develop a designated PC email account: Completed
  - b. Publish in Bulletin how to access email account and PC Minutes: Completed
  - c. Publish link to registration for Diocesan Social Ministry Conference: Completed
  - d. Assure that Jan. and Feb. PC Minutes are posted: Completed
4. **Presentations by Committee Chairs**
  - A. **Adult Faith Enrichment Committee (Michael Twomey)**
    1. Michael reviewed the activities of the Committee since Summer 2021. There have been presentations on the Church's social encyclicals, a Scripture reflections program ("What the Mass Readings Mean and How to Live Them") and a Life and Faith Session on St. Joseph. The session on St. Joseph was seen by the Committee as one of the best programs they had done. It brought the group closer together and emphasized life experiences rather than doctrine. Michael's report notes, "we need to have more discussions like this on the presence of God's spirit in our lives".
    2. The AFE Committee helped run the synod meetings and produced the reports sent to the diocese.
    3. Observations: The group missed the support that Ann Marie had offered. They found challenges with using Zoom for presentations/programs (Zoom fatigue and occasional dwindling attendance for some program series). Finding dates and times for maximum attendance can be difficult. A nightly series run during one week is a very viable format.
    4. The group was able to recruit presenters that were not part of the Committee. They are encouraged that Movie Night, always a popular activity, will be resuming. There were ideas that came out of the synod discussions that may turn into programs. Some want to learn more about the history of the Mass and its parts and some want to learn how earlier readings fit with the gospel for each Mass. Some want children to see and understand the Mass better.

**B. Children Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Sacramental Preparation, CASE Training (Rich Rasmussen)**

1. Children's Faith Formation: Due to a smaller volunteer base this year, a model that combined grade levels was developed. Groups met in person every other week. Quizzes were given on each chapter of the material to assure some level of mastery.
2. The Middle School group met every other week-end and focused on video material. This format wasn't as effective relationally. Changes may be made next year to get away from videos.
3. 16 youth were Confirmed this year, 14 received First Reconciliation and 26 received First Eucharist.
4. Number of registered youth is quite low ("by about half"). Some families are continuing to keep their children home and away from group activities at this time.
5. The High School group has been the most difficult to get going. Youth appear to "cherry-pick" the events they want to attend. The same few youth seem to attend. Rich wants to make changes for next year that has a more relational focus. Feedback on format will be solicited from the youth.
6. CASE training and background checks are required for parish volunteers. Rich will be notifying each PC member of next steps they need to complete this requirement.

**C. Peace and Justice (Mary Crosley)**

1. Mary reported there are currently 5-7 very active members of the Committee. They focus on education, advocacy and encouraging actions as needed and volunteering where they can. They were founded to raise awareness of issues of poverty, injustice, discrimination and conflict in our community and the larger world. Catholic Social Teaching forms the framework of their actions.
2. The Committee is connected to other county and diocesan committees and initiatives. Several members are now part of the newly formed Rochester chapter of Catholic Relief Services. The Diocesan Social Ministry Conference will be held on May 25 with a focus on Pope Francis' implementation of Laudato Si in the diocese.
3. Some of the issues the Committee focused on during the past 2 years included: racism, advocacy for the HALT program (Human Alternative to Solitary Confinement), discussion on abuses in Indian schools in Canada and USA, investigating a program on non-violent communication and learning about the needs of the homeless in our community, particularly efforts to support their mental health needs.
4. The Committee has also been involved in immigration issues through their support of the Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance and Ithaca Welcomes Refugees.
5. It was suggested that it could be helpful for this committee to reach out to the high school group for possible shared programming.

**D. Music and Liturgy Committees (Sherry Scanza)**

1. The Liturgy Committee meets a few times each year to focus on plans for Advent and Lent. They review readings and connect themes.
2. The main focus of the Music Committee for this year and next year has been and will be the transition back to in-person singing. They are currently singing in small ensembles at each Mass. They will be actively recruiting new choir members and cantors. In addition, they hope to reinstate the children's music ministry, as well as the teen group.
3. During the COVID shutdown, music was recorded and mixed each week. This process involved 12-20 singers recording 2-3 pieces of music most weeks.
4. They are hoping to add new hymns in a variety of styles to their repertoire. Sherry noted that the diversity of the parish currently seems less than it was and this impacts our music offerings.
5. Our current keyboardist is leaving July 1. Replacing her will be another transition for this ministry.

**E. Welcoming and Social Committee (Bob Brown)**

1. There are currently 5-6 members on the Committee.
2. The Parish Picnic is currently being organized. Bob is working on getting music options arranged. He is running into insurance obstacles. Jonathan made the following motion: "As the Parish Council, we strongly endorse funding the insurance rider that will enable the band to perform at the Parish Picnic." The members expressed support for this motion, but it was felt by others that this issue could be resolved through contacting the diocese. This issue will be brought to Father Joe's attention.

**F. Pastoral Visitors (Mary Lou Bailey)**

1. The pandemic greatly impacted this ministry. Some folks continued to offer assistance and outreach to some parishioners. This was especially appreciated by those who lived alone or were incapacitated in any way. Safety was always a primary concern.
2. During the past 3 weeks some Communion Services resumed at Longview and Brookdale, but this was short-lived due to a current resurgence. Visits to homes are still possible.
3. There are 8-10 new volunteers interested in this ministry.
4. Mary Lou noted the deepening sense of community and connection that can come from this ministry.
5. **Father Joe's Update and Comments:** Father Joe was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
6. Dotse mentioned that a number of members' terms will be expiring in June. We should be considering our membership plans for the Fall.

## **7. People to be Thanked in the Bulletin**

- Those who helped with our Easter celebration.
- Those who helped with preparing our youth for First Eucharist.
- Those who put Synod summaries together.

## **8. Review of Actionable Items**

1. Make adjustments to our poster that includes the PC email address for parishioners to directly contact the PC. (Sue Hyatt)
2. Resolve insurance question regarding band performing at the Parish Picnic. (Fr. Joe)

## **9. Closing Prayer**