

St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Milwaukee
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom teleconference

Attendees: John Buckley, Joe Carey, Judy Dollhausen, Anisha D’Silva, Nicole Harley, Carol Hasenyager, Fr. Joe Jagodensky, Nick Kwaw, Patrick O’Neil, Bill Protz, Tom Schmirler

Unexcused: Pat Lehman

1. **Opening Prayer:** Bill Protz
2. **Prayer for new Council Members:** John Buckley, Carol Hasenyager, Tom Schmirler
3. **Parish Administrator’s Report**

The City School began classes on August 24; Northwest Catholic School must wait two to four weeks to open pending resolution of ventilation problems.

Fr. Joe consulted with Lamar about a parish billboard. This would likely cost in excess of \$25,000, as permits would need to be obtained from the city to assure that the lighting is proper. Would someone be willing to sell us a marquee type sign they are no longer using? This could be a way of still calling attention to the location of our church, but at a lower expense.

Discussion ensued regarding how to make more people aware of the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. Generous contributions mean we have plenty of food, but we’re not sure many people are aware of it. Perhaps we could put an arrow with the word “food pantry” underneath the existing St. Catherine sign on Brown Deer Road. Judy will look into this option. Other possibilities include putting the food pantry hours in our ad in *Our Brown Deer* magazine or posting signs at Aldi, Wal-Mart and neighborhood laundromats. Could we set up the food pantry at a more accessible location on a Saturday morning? However, receipt of government funding may limit what can be done in this regard. On a positive note, the pantry is on the list of sites given to people who call the “211” crisis line.

Fr. Joe noted that the Archdiocese will not extend the general dispensation from Mass attendance past September 6. However, those who truly do not feel comfortable attending are not required to do so. Attendance has been averaging between 30 and 40 at 4:30 Mass and 40 and 50 at 9:30 Mass.

With the lifting of the general dispensation from Mass attendance, the Council discussed how to handle increased Mass attendance while maintaining social distancing. The Prayer and Worship Committee had proposed having two locations for receipt of Holy Communion, with Fr. Joe distributing from the front of church and a Eucharistic Minister from the back. Fr. Joe is in agreement with this plan.

The possibility of seating excess Mass attendees in the Granville Room was explored. This would require some sort of video apparatus in the sanctuary allowing the Mass to be shown on a monitor in the Granville Room. The Prayer and Worship Committee will look into this.

4. **Approve June 23, 2020 Minutes**

Judy requested an amendment to the section of the minutes dealing with the Human Concerns Committee report. With that amendment, Nicole moved that the minutes be approved, with John seconding.

5. **Council Standing Committee Reports**

Human Concerns: The parish's Advent Giving initiatives will be Street Angels (homeless outreach), Project Return (post-prison ministry), and Impact 211 (outreach to people in crisis).

Prayer and Worship: Next meeting on Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Granville Room, as the Archdiocese has now allowed in person meetings as long as proper social distancing is observed.

Stewardship: No meeting is scheduled. Fr. Joe noted that stewardship is not simply about monetary offerings but also using all of our talents in helping the church's mission.

Tri-Parish Christian Formation: Next meeting is Sept. 15 via Zoom.

6. **Finance Council Report**

The Council selected Jeff Jaroczynski as chairperson for the 2020-2021 term. The 5-year lease with the City School has been signed by all parties. A \$150 cap on maintenance type purchases by parish employees in non-emergency situations was established. The house tenant will be asked about taking on the cost of a rented water softener, since a rod in the water heater was the source of the water discoloration and smell problem. We are still in the process of obtaining a market analysis for the valuation of the house. Parishioner contributions were about \$1,500 over budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. However, July numbers were lower than in previous years. Next meeting, September 17 at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom.

7. **Parish Membership: Communications/Marketing Ad Hoc Committee**

The committee has thought about using "We are essential..." as a parish slogan. This reflects the importance of our faith community not only now, during the Covid-19 pandemic, but always. Our ad will appear in the fall edition of *Our Brown Deer* magazine. The parish's Facebook page is active. Thought was given to advertising the food pantry on Facebook as well as including a donation button on that page. Other marketing methods include the parish website, Fr. Joe's You Tube channel and a possible billboard or other sign of some sort.

The need to market not only our parish, but our Catholic faith, was emphasized. The committee is considering placing one-minute video testimonials from parishioners on the Facebook page, where they explain why they belong to St. Catherine. It is important that the members selected represent a young and diverse cross section of the parish.

8. Statues Between Parking Lot and 76th Place (Jesus in the pines and Mary nearby)

The parish received a quote of \$8,500 to refurbish the Jesus statue and \$2,700 to refurbish the statue of Mary. It was noted that the Jesus statue cannot be moved given its weight and location in the original parish cemetery. The council agreed to further explore restoration of these statues. Perhaps the professional who repaired the angel statues in the cemetery will be able to do this as well, since we were satisfied with his work there. Consideration was also given to adding a light to the Jesus statue.

Discussion was also given to landscaping on the north side of the church. The pine trees there block the view of the church. There are lots of roots and branches against the north church wall. However, if the trees are removed, would that impact the foundation of the church? Judy knows a DNR forester. She will get his thoughts and report back.

9. What are You Hearing? (Fr. Joe H. and Debbie H. retirements)

Fr. Joe Hornacek will not be completely retiring from St. Catherine. He will still be available to celebrate occasional weekday and weekend Masses here. Therefore, the weekend of August 29-30 will not be so much to say goodbye to him as it will be to honor and thank him for his 10 years of steadfast service to the parish.

Debbie Hintz is thankfully on the road to recovery. However, she is still unable to be around groups of people. Therefore, it may be some time before the parish can give her a proper thank you and retirement celebration.

The time change of the weekday Masses from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon was discussed. Are the people that attended the morning Mass still able to come at noon? If not, we should reach out to them. A broader telephone outreach to the general older parish population by the Stewardship Committee was also touched upon.

10. Next Meeting: September 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

11. Closing Prayer: Bill Protz

