

St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Milwaukee
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom teleconference

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

Absent: Nick Kwaw

1. Opening Prayer: Tom Schmirler

2. Parish Administrator’s Report

Benches are being obtained for around the Jesus statue, with an additional bench at the Mary statue. Any changes in the columbarium pricing structure are on hold for now. Consideration is being given to placement of a “drop box” where parishioners can leave their contributions without having to ring the parish office.

Currently, St. Catherine is the only parish contributing financially to Northwest Catholic School. At its last meeting, the Finance Council decided to reduce, but not eliminate, St. Catherine’s subsidy, in light of decreased parishioner support during the pandemic.

Fr. Joe e-mailed the pastor at St. Michael/St. Rose a few weeks ago to explore the next steps in working together, but has not received a response.

Stations of the Cross are being planned for 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays during Lent, followed by Eucharistic adoration until 2:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the name of this body. “Pastoral” council infers that it acts as a council to Fr. Joe as Parish Administrator. However, council members are representatives of the parish. Perhaps it is more proper that we be referred to as a “parish” council.

The parish’s 2021 Theme of “Joy” has been well received. People are encouraged to share everyday moments of joy in their lives, with these moments being published in the bulletin each week. Contributors may remain anonymous.

3. Approve November 24, 2020 Minutes

Fr. Joe’s name needs to be added to the first sentence in Section 2, as he was also at the meeting with the leaders of the group from St. Michael/St. Rose. In reviewing the minutes, Judy noted that she has asked the City to trim the brush along North 76th Place; this work will hopefully be done in

early spring. With the correction, John moved that the minutes be approved, with a second by Pat. Motion carried.

4. **Comments From Parishioners Who Are Present**

Parishioner Bill Hunt was present to discuss the outcome of the St. Catherine Connects initiative. The goal was to telephone all parishioners during Advent to ask how they are doing and if they needed anything from the parish. Of the 383 households in the parish directory, 341 were called. There were 12 callers, assigned 25 households each. However, Judy Dollhausen made 76 calls. Calls were made between December 5 and 19. 142 voicemail messages were left and 69 households said that no additional contact was needed. There were 29 no answers. 9 had incorrect member information or were no longer parish members. 25 requested a call back. Interestingly, 38 needed corrections to their directory information.

Most households appreciated the call. Very few seemed annoyed by the contact. The calls were particularly meaningful for those prevented from attending Mass due to COVID concerns. Issues addressed included food pantry delivery and arranging transportation to Mass.

By all accounts, this was a successful project. Follow-up calls will need to be made to those who requested them, perhaps during Lent. Maybe we can take a deeper dive into the data to see if there is a correlation between a household's age and whether they answered the call versus letting it go to voicemail. Perhaps there is a better way of reaching younger people, such as text messaging. A bulletin insert is forthcoming explaining the initiative's results.

5. **Council Standing Committee Reports**

Human Concerns: Committee met on January 11. All calls were completed for St. Catherine Connects, with the majority of parishioners appreciative of the calls. Advent giving resulted in the following contributions: Street Angels - \$1,574; Project Return - \$1,699 and Project 211 - \$2,316. Lenten Almsgiving will be for Northside Meal Program and Guest House. St. Vincent de Paul needs volunteers for leadership roles. Next meeting is March 8.

Prayer and Worship: Funeral announcements in the bulletin need to be uniform. We need more ushers, as two have recently left this ministry. Next meeting is February 9 at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom.

Stewardship: Committee has not met since the last council meeting. A chairperson is needed.

Tri-Parish Christian Formation: Committee met on January 4. Children's K-11 attendance is really good; it is held on Wednesdays on Zoom. No retreat this year due to COVID. There are 3 candidates for confirmation in May and one RCIA candidate from St Bernadette. Adult Scripture Study and Bible Basics resumed on January 5 for 8 weeks, with attendance mostly from St. Catherine. Baptisms are being done after Mass. Lenten booklets will be available, with readings from St. Catherine parishioners. The Lenten retreats may repeat Catholic Social Teaching, as they were shortened last year due to COVID. Next meeting is March 1.

6. Finance Council Report

The Council met via Zoom on January 21. The boiler mechanical plans are expected to be finished next month, with the project then going to bids. Bids were accepted for the repair of the Jesus statue and for the removal of trees and brush on the parish grounds. The council decided to decrease the parish's contribution to Northwest Catholic/Seton. While parishioner contributions are lower than last year, they are not far-off budget. Next meeting is February 18 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

7. Future Use of St. Catherine's Disciple Maker 2020 Index

The results of the survey will now be taken to the various parish committees, with each committee then developing a strategic plan on how to inspire and re-invigorate its particular area of parish life. Emphasis should be on short term planning, with one or two concrete goals. John invited the committee liaisons to reach out to him, as he is willing to meet with each committee chair or whole committee.

8. Parish Membership

Communications/Marketing Ad Hoc Committee: The committee has not met recently. The parish's ad did appear in the December issue of *Our Brown Deer* magazine. Bill Protz has almost finished a flyer inviting people to check out St. Catherine. This will be mailed to Parishioner homes. Further use suggestions were to place copies in New Member Welcome Folders, in vertical holders at our three doorways, spare copies in the office for Parishioner evangelizing and possibly as a future bulletin insert.

State Of Parish Volunteers: St. Vincent de Paul food pantry needs people in leadership roles. This should be announced in the bulletin. In addition, they need to get the word out that they have plenty of food to distribute. They may be hampered somewhat by their location off the bus line and by the fact that we can't add a sign for the food pantry under our St. Catherine signs on 76th Street and Brown Deer Road. The relationship between the parish and St. Vincent de Paul is somewhat unclear, even though most of the volunteers are from the parish. Fr. Joe will reach out the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Milwaukee in this regard.

Perhaps rather than soliciting members to serve on parish committees, the focus should be on developing specific initiatives and then asking for volunteers (i.e., grounds clean up).

Nicole mentioned that the Community Garden is waiting to hear from the Finance Council what will be done about the fencing situation.

9. 2021-2024 Pastoral Council Nomination/Selection Process

Bill, Nicole and Patrick will each come to the end of their 3-year term on the council after the June 2021 meeting. Therefore, a Selection Committee needs to be formed to oversee the nomination and election process to fill these three seats. Pursuant to Archdiocesan norms, Judy, as council Vice Chair, is to serve as the chair of the Selection Committee. Archdiocesan norms formerly required that the second-year members of the council (in this case: Judy, Nick and Anisha) serve on the Selection Committee. While this no longer appears to be a requirement, it makes sense that the second-year members constitute this committee. Therefore, the Selection Committee will consist of Judy, Anisha and one more member. In light of COVID protocols, it may be wise to include election ballots as a bulletin insert, rather than having them at the end of each pew.

10. 2021 Catholic Stewardship Appeal

The 2021 Stewardship Appeal will be kicked off on the weekend of February 6/7. The parish has already received promotional posters. The appeal will be accompanied by a new video. Since we do not have the capability of showing the video in church, a link to it will appear in the bulletin, in Friday Footnotes and on the parish website.

11. What Are You Hearing?

Concern was expressed over a parishioner who has not been seen at Mass since October. Since we have all of the Mass sign-in sheets since beginning that procedure, we should have her phone number. She will be contacted to make sure she is OK.

12. Next Meeting: February 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

13. Closing Prayer: Tom Schmirler

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. Minutes submitted by Patrick O'Neil

Final