

St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Milwaukee
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom teleconference

Attendees: John Buckley, Joe Carey, Judy Dollhausen, Nicole Hartley, Carol Hasenyager, Fr. Joe Jagodensky, Nick Kwaw, Patrick O'Neil, Bill Protz, Tom Schmirler

Absent: Anisha D'Silva, Pat Lehman

1. Opening Prayer: Joe Carey

2. Parish Administrator's Report

In light of Theresa Gross' resignation as parish administrative assistant, several volunteers are filling that role. In a few weeks, we will assess whether we need a full-time or part-time administrative assistant.

Father Al will be returning as Assisting Priest in April.

We will continue the current arrangement with the parish house, whereby the tenant will pay rent and utilities, with the parish paying the property taxes.

Weekday Mass attendance has increased during Lent. Stations of the Cross following Tuesday Mass have been well attended, and a few people usually stay for Eucharistic Adoration.

There is an open spot for Parish Trustee in 2021-22. A bulletin announcement will seek nominations for this position.

3. Approve February 23, 2021 Minutes

By Judy's motion and Nicole's second, the February minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Comments From Parishioners Who Are Present

No parishioners were present.

5. Council Standing Committee Reports

Human Concerns: Met on March 3, 2021. Discussed having the food pantry on some Saturdays. The Fifth Sunday collection in January raised \$371.00 for Food Faith Farming. The

Finance Council approved a rubberized type fence for the Community Garden. A parishioner has indicated that he has a friend who will install the fence for a set price. The garden has 12 to 15 plots. Discussion ensued on how to price the plots. It was decided that each plot would be \$25. If the plot is properly cleaned following the growing season, the owner will receive a free entry into the next year's parish calendar raffle. Plot owners will need to sign a contract pledging adherence to the garden's rules.

Prayer and Worship: We will have a memorial service or picnic honoring Debbie Hintz. However, a date will not be selected pending progress of the Covid recovery. The forthcoming benches at the Mary statue will be dedicated to Debbie as well, with a plaque. The church bells are now ringing hourly from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The parish office received one phone call complaining about this. Some parishioners have heard neighborhood complaints as well. We will not change the bell ringing schedule for now. Sign-in at Masses may be discontinued after Easter.

Stewardship: No meeting since last council meeting.

Tri-Parish Christian Formation: Met on March 1. Children's K-11 sessions will continue on Zoom for the rest of the school year. Bible Basics and Scripture Study will resume on April 13 for 8 weeks; considering options for summer programs. A book study will begin after Easter or in May; two books are under consideration. Police District 4 Faith Group will begin meeting again on March 25. This group consists of representatives of neighborhood churches working with a police liaison.

6. Finance Council Report

The Finance Council met via Zoom on March 18. The school boiler project has received three bids. A door at the parish-owned house needs to be repaired. Longer term, the school roof may need to be replaced. A proxy will be submitted to the Archdiocese moving funds from Faith In Our Future to pay our yearly subsidy to Seton/Northwest Catholic. Both stewardship and offertory figures are down for the fiscal year. The City School passed accreditation. They have 146 students—all virtual learning. The school continues to be satisfied with its arrangement with St. Catherine. No April meeting. Next meeting is May 20 at 5:30 p.m.

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

John has reached out to the chairpersons of the Human Concerns and Prayer and Worship Committees, offering to present survey results as they apply to their respective areas of concern. While the survey results were generally very favorable for St. Catherine, they did reveal some areas needing improvement.

8. Parish Membership

Communications/Marketing Ad Hoc Committee: St. Catherine will have an advertisement in the May edition of *Our Brown Deer* magazine. Since we have been regularly advertising in *Our Brown Deer*, we may be able to get a discount on an advertisement in the *Brown Deer Summer Events Guide*.

Discussion ensued about using our large parking lot for a summer gathering to promote fellowship. This could include an outdoor Mass and children's activities.

Since 76th Place is not part of the state highway system, it is not eligible for the Adopt-A-Highway program. However, we can still organize a day to remove trash and debris along the street. John proposed that signs be placed along 76th Place telling passersby that the road clean-up is courtesy of St. Catherine Parish.

The St. Catherine yard signs will be re-deployed. We have about 30 in storage and these will be offered to parishioners. People who already have a sign will be asked to put it up in their yard again.

Other marketing ideas involve the Brown Deer Fourth of July celebration. St. Catherine could provide volunteers to work at the corn roast stand, or even purchase a set amount of corn. This may allow St. Catherine to be considered a sponsor of the corn roast and, as such, allow us to have a variety of materials promoting the parish at the stand.

All Are Welcome Mailer: The flyer, prepared by Bill, was mailed to every address on the parish's mailing list last week. The mailer's theme is that St Catherine is open, active and essential.

First Sunday of the Month New Parishioner Welcome/Inquiry: The council agreed that this activity, which had been on hiatus due to Covid restrictions, should now be resumed with appropriate precautions.

9. 2021-2024 Pastoral Council Nomination/Selection Process

No nominations were received from parishioners. The council identified several individuals who may have the qualities desired in a council member. The Selection Committee will contact these people to ask if they are interested in serving on the council.

10. What Are You Hearing?

People may be more willing to volunteer on parish committees if it is a small term commitment. The council briefly discussed the "Illumination of Conscience" concept, which has sparked interest in some Catholics.

11. **Next Meeting:** April 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

12. **Closing Prayer:** Joe Carey

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Patrick O'Neil

Final