

St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Milwaukee
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 24, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom teleconference

Attendees: John Buckley, Joe Carey, Judy Dollhausen, Nicole Hartley, Fr. Joe Jagodensky, Pat Lehman, Patrick O'Neil, Bill Protz

Absent: Anisha D'Silva, Carol Hasenyager, Nick Kwaw, Tom Schmirler

1. **Opening Prayer:** Judy Dollhausen

2. **Parish Administrator's Report**

Fr. Joe, Bill Protz and Lorrie Maples recently met with the leaders of the Hmong group who have expressed an interest in joining our parish. There are 80 families (about 350 people) in the group. Most live in our area of the city, and there is not enough room for them at St. Rose/St. Michael. Many of them are new Catholics, and it is very important to them that their children be catechized in the Catholic faith. A number of them have been in the United States for 30 or more years. Many of the elders do not speak English, but many of the younger generation speak it well. Many also have experience as ushers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers.

The next step following the meeting was not discussed. They are exploring different parishes at this time. A visit to St. Catherine may be forthcoming in December.

3. **Approve October 27, 2020 Minutes**

A misspelling was noted in Section 9 of the minutes. The word "Shawl" should replace "Shall". With that correction, Judy moved that the minutes be approved, with a second by Nicole. Motion carried.

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

No parishioners were present.

5. **Council Standing Committee Reports**

Human Concerns: Advent giving will be limited to cash except for the mitten and hat tree. The 2021 fifth Sunday collection recipients have been selected.

Prayer and Worship: Updated COVID procedures and upcoming liturgical celebrations, including Advent and Christmas, were discussed. Next meeting is December 1.

Stewardship: The Stewardship Appeal mailing went out several weeks ago. So far, there have been 176 responses.

Tri-Parish Christian Formation: 34 students are enrolled in kindergarten through grade 11 formation. There are none in kindergarten through grade 2, so there will be no First Communion this year. Adult formation has paused until after Christmas. There were 2 baptisms and 3 RICA candidates at St. Catherine in 2020.

6. Finance Council Report

While several bids were received for tree and brush removal on the parish grounds, action on the bids has been tabled for several months. Collections and contribution numbers are down. Next meeting: January 21, 2021.

7. St. Catherine's Disciple Maker 2020 Index Presentation—John Buckley

John shared the results of St. Catherine's participation in the Archdiocesan Disciple Maker Index Survey conducted in early 2020. This information was displayed in a series of graphs and charts, which John made available to the Council. St. Catherine's response rate to the survey was over 60 percent, significantly higher than the Archdiocesan parish average of around 20 percent

The survey revealed many positive attributes of the parish. 94 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that we are a welcoming community. 94 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend our pastor (in our case, our dear friend Debbie Hintz) to others. In addition, 88 percent agreed or strongly agreed that St. Catherine helps their spiritual growth. We are clearly fulfilling these aspects of our mission well and need to make sure we continue doing so.

However, the survey also revealed some areas where work may be needed. Fully 42 percent of respondents never receive the sacrament of Confession, 72 percent have never attended a class or workshop, and 86 percent have never been on a retreat. It was noted that these percentages are similar to most other parishes in the Archdiocese.

Moving forward, John will present one major theme from the survey's findings in the bulletin and on the parish website during each of the four weeks of Advent. Then, in early 2021, John, Bill and Father Joe will meet with Parish Committee chairs to go through the survey results and to develop an action plan.

Overall, the survey findings revealed what keeps St. Catherine alive and dynamic as a parish, as well as what challenges stand in the way of us being an even better Catholic community. It is hoped that this may inspire new parish volunteers, who will be needed to maintain vibrancy and to implement improvements.

8. Parish Membership

St. Catherine Connects: This is a project whereby parish volunteers will reach out to all parishioners to ask how they are doing and if the parish can help them in any way. As of the time of this meeting, 12 people have stepped up to call 376 households. Calls will start after Thanksgiving weekend.

Communications/Marketing Ad Hoc Committee: The copy for the parish's ad in *Our Brown Deer* magazine has been submitted, with a December 15 publication date. It will announce four Masses during the Christmas period and feature the message that "we are your home for the holidays and always". The parish Facebook page is being kept fresh and current with testimonials from parishioners and highlights from recent liturgies.

9. What are You Hearing?

There have been some concerns about St. Vincent de Paul volunteers not observing social distancing and mask protocol while collecting food contributions at Masses and in the Food Pantry.

The council discussed the litter along 76th Place, especially between the church and Brown Deer Road. Years ago, the parish had "adopted" 76th Place for litter removal, but this group is no longer functional. Perhaps next spring, we can ask for volunteers to spend a few hours picking up trash that collects over the winter.

10. **Next Meeting:** January 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

11. **Closing Prayer:** Judy Dollhausen

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. Minutes submitted by Patrick O'Neil

Final

