

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

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

Absent: Anisha D'Silva, Nick Kwaw

1. Opening Prayer: John Buckley

2. Parish Administrator's Report

Attendance at Tuesday Mass today was about 25. Most attendees stayed for Stations of the Cross, with 5 participating in Eucharistic adoration afterwards. Attendance at Stations is higher than when they were held on Friday evenings. The present arrangement on Lenten Tuesdays--Mass, Stations, Adoration--appears to be a success and, therefore, will not be changed.

Benches are being explored for the around the Jesus and Mary statues, with consideration being given to dedicating the Mary statue bench to the memory of Debbie Hintz. Mass attendance has increased. The school boiler project is now in bids. Three trees will be removed on the north side of the church, and two trees are to be removed around the statue of Jesus. The sanctuary light inside church lights up a significant portion of the outside of the church. Changing this light to LED will make the church even more visible at night. Perhaps this negates the need for a billboard. Fr. Joe's recent YouTube posting, *Lent 2021, St. Catherine of Alexandria Reflection*, has had 89 views so far.

Fr. Joe has not talked to the St. Vincent de Paul leadership since the council last meeting. The food pantry, open on Friday mornings, averages about 15 to 20 visitors per week. Maybe more people would come if it was open on Saturday instead, when people who are working during the week may be more likely to come. The pantry is in need of younger volunteers and has plenty of inventory. Perhaps this issue should be addressed by the Human Concerns Committee.

The City School will go through an accreditation process in March, and the council wishes to thank Jack Fox for his work painting in the school prior to the accreditation.

3. Approve January 26, 2021 Minutes

In the fourth paragraph of section 2 (Parish Administrator's Report), the ending time for Eucharistic adoration needs to be changed from 3:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. With this amendment, Judy moved that the minutes be approved, with a second by Nicole. Motion carried.

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

Parishioner Kathy Lucas was present. Kathy found Fr. Joe's recent You Tube posting to be enjoyable and inspirational.

5. **Council Standing Committee Reports**

Human Concerns: Has not met since last council meeting. Next meeting is March 8.

Prayer and Worship: The committee explored possibly using long handled baskets for the offertory collection, but given the shortage of ushers, we will continue using the collection boxes. We have several ear pieces available for those who have difficulty hearing during Mass. A bulletin notice will ask those who may be interested in using the pieces to contact the parish office. Pre-registration will be required for all Easter Triduum services

Stewardship: No meeting since last council meeting and no meeting scheduled. Two individuals were approached about chairing the committee, but both declined.

Tri-Parish Christian Formation: No meeting since last council meeting. Next meeting is March 1. There are three confirmation candidates: two from St. Bernadette and one from Our Lady of Good Hope. Confirmation will be celebrated on May 1 at Our Lady of Good Hope. Bible Basics will start up again after Easter.

6. **Finance Council Report**

The Council met via Zoom on February 18. The boiler mechanical plans have been completed and the project is ready to bid. We are still optimistic that this project can be completed this summer. The Council will explore blocking off a portion of the cemetery for future expansion of the columbarium. Even though stewardship and weekly offertory collection numbers are down, we are still in pretty good shape. Next meeting is March 18 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

John will reach out to the parish standing committee chairs to encourage each committee to implement an action plan in light of the survey results. Given that so much of the survey was favorable for St. Catherine, survey results will be shared as part of our "Moments of Joy" campaign.

8. Parish Membership

Communications/Marketing Ad Hoc Committee: The committee has not met recently. John explained the *Brown Deer Summer Events Guide*, which goes to every household and business in Brown Deer. An ad in this guide would be great marketing for the parish as it has a longer shelf life than *Our Brown Deer* magazine, since many people keep it on hand all summer. While there will not be a Brown Deer Fourth of July parade this year, there will be a celebration in the park. Maybe we could have a table with parish information at the park that day.

All Are Welcome Mailer: The parish flyer prepared by Bill is ready. 600 have been printed; 420 will be mailed. It is a cheerful mailer, explaining that not only is St. Catherine a welcoming church; it is also essential. The aim is to retain parish membership, as well as bring some new faces to St. Catherine.

9. 2021-2024 Pastoral Council Nomination/Selection Process

Judy reported that the first announcement calling for parish council nominations appeared in last weekend's bulletin. Nomination forms will be included with the bulletin over the next two weekends. After that, the Selection Committee will need to contact any nominees to ask whether they accept their nomination.

10. What Are You Hearing?

Someone has asked about the status of the relationship between St. Catherine and St. Michael/St. Rose. Fr. Joe had e-mailed them about 3 weeks ago regarding further action, but has not received a reply. We remain willing to work with them but will not reach out at this time, as the "ball is in their court".

Emeritus Pope Benedict's 04/10/2019 quote about the "Real Presence":

Discussion ensued around Emeritus Pope Benedict's 2019 quote: "...what is required first and foremost is the renewal of the Faith in the Reality of Jesus Christ given to us in the Blessed Sacrament." Specifically, in light of national surveys showing that 70 percent of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, what can we do here at St. Catherine to reinforce and/or explain this essential doctrine of the Church? Would more homilies and bulletin articles on this topic be a start? If people believed in the Real Presence, would they be less likely to leave the Church?

Last year's Disciple Maker survey showed that 80 percent of St. Catherine parishioners DO believe in the Real Presence. Therefore, this does not seem to be a significant problem in our parish. People are leaving the Church for other reasons besides a lack of belief in the Real Presence. In fact, belief in the Real Presence may be keeping people *in* the Church. Rather than explaining and reinforcing a doctrine that a significant number of parishioners accept, we should focus on keeping our liturgies vibrant and meaningful celebrations of our oneness with the Body of Christ. Another idea is to do both.

11. **Next Meeting:** March 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

12. **Closing Prayer:** John Buckley

Minutes submitted by Patrick O'Neil

3.30.21, Final