

St. Catherine of Alexandria
8661 North 76th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53223

St. Catherine of Alexandria, the church on the hill since 1855, joins together as a Catholic community to give praise and thanks to God by living and sharing our faith in Jesus Christ through our worship, formation and outreach.

With our cluster parishes, we strive to make Christ visible to our wider community.



Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2019

Attendees: Pastoral Council members Debra Hintz, Rick Korpela, Sue Niemi, Sue Armacost, Les Paulson, Ralph Boeckl, Nicole Hartley, Barbara Holt, Patrick O'Neil, Bill Protz and Sue Wassenberg; Pat Lehman was excused. No other persons were present.

Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.; Patrick O'Neil led the opening prayer.

Approval of March 26, 2019 Minutes

A motion by Sue Armacost, seconded by Nicole Hartley, that the minutes be approved as printed was accepted without dissent.

Planning for the Future update

Debbie Hintz distributed copies of an email from the archdiocese addressing future possibilities for St. Catherine parish. It suggests a variety of options, including a possible extension for the parish director and/or another parish director to follow Debbie. Some stability for the parish for the near future is indicated.

What would parishioners make of this letter? They could greet it with concern, worry, and going to the wrong conclusions; especially since they do not have all the background information. But it could also impart less cause for concern and the promise of longer term stability.

It is possible that Andy, Debbie and Lorrie might all be retiring at the same time. This would not be good and steps will be taken to avoid it.

How do we get parishioners to appreciate the promise of increased stability? Debbie will address the letter in a column, also suggesting listening sessions in the parish. We have not had an all-parish meeting for two years because we have been waiting for more news to share with the parish regarding long range planning. This seems to be the right time to hold some type of sessions to provide an update and obtain feedback.

Sue Armacost suggested that we need to impress the archdiocese with our vitality; our parish banner which has been created for the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese is one sign of this, something we have done which many other parishes have not. Another sign is the fact that we always have two representatives at deanery meetings.

Barbara Holt, Sue Niemi, Bill Protz and Sue Wassenberg agreed to be a committee with Debbie to organize listening sessions.

Council Formation Discussion

It was emphasized that we realize that people are seeking for meaning in life, an opportunity for evangelization. At the same time, we need better marketing, better signage, attempts to get our name out.

Deanery 23 Meeting update

Emphasized in this meeting was making people aware of Catholic presence, eg. St. Vincent de Paul was not recognized by some as a Catholic organization. Partnerships with existing ministries were pointed out. A handout on church security was distributed at this meeting and copies were given to our council members, with a mandate to read it at home and discuss it at our next meeting.

Committee Reports (questions/clarifications)

None.

Pastoral Council Elections

There are three candidates for this year and perhaps three for next year; though no election will be necessary, biographies for each candidate will appear in the bulletin.

Parish Director's Report

- A welcome bequest will cover the cost of new doors.
- Columbarium sales are going well.
- There is a complication with a grant request for the community garden. More involvement of the wider community is a requirement for this particular grant. Since this grant was only recently made known to us and we've been planning for some time, we've done the planning ourselves. However, we are still waiting for a final response to our application.

What are you hearing?

Debbie Hintz and Ralph Boeckl reported many good comments about Holy Week liturgies. The next Council meeting, it was agreed, will be May 21, 2019.

Closing Prayer

All joined in the Closing Prayer, after which the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Les Paulson, Secretary