

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

March 20, 2018

Attendees: Pastoral Council members Debra Hintz, Rick Korpela, Pat Lehman, Sue Niemi, Sue Armacost, Les Paulson, Ralph Boeckl, Marie Brushafer, Barb Holt, Jeanette McMurdo and Sue Wassenberg. Absent was Lyn Keever (excused). No other persons were present.

Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Rick Korpela led the opening prayers.

Approval of the February 27, 2018 Minutes

It was noted that the minutes were correct as printed, but that action had been taken subsequent to the February 27 meeting to replace the April 15, 2018, all-parish meeting of the Pastoral Council with a regular meeting on April 24, 2018, and eventually by meetings with focus groups. A motion made by Sue Armacost and seconded by Barb Holt to approve the minutes was passed.

All About Caring Parishes

St. Michael's and St. Rose's parishes are partnered together and share a pastor, one model of caring parishes. The comment was made that involvement in a serious caring parishes effort would take additional participation, when it is already a challenge to involve people is doing what needs to be done. The consensus was that caring parishes would be worth looking at more closely; perhaps Debbie could get Mark Kemmeter to attend the Council's next meeting and give more information about caring parishes.

Focus groups

We will be looking at groups of seniors and younger adults, coordinated perhaps by Maureen Gallagher.

Pastoral Council Elections/nomination committee

There are at this time three good candidates and one prospect, with the election (if necessary) to be held on May 20. Les Paulson expressed thanks to Sue Armacost for all the effort she has put into this project.

Committee Reports (questions/clarifications)

Ralph Boeckl, liaison to the Human Concerns Committee, reported that Tom Durkin, from the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking, spoke to the committee of help given to 4th and 5th grade students with problems in public and catholic schools. He also related that the Winter Farmers Market had gone well and will be planned for next year, that Robert and Debra Wazniak are the new coordinators of the St. Vincent de Paul Northside Meal Program, and that donations had been made through Catholic Relief for Rohingya relief and to priests in Puerto Rico for hurricane relief.

Sue Armacost, reporting for the Prayer and Worship Committee, noted that careful arrangements are being made for Holy Week worship. She encouraged Pastoral Council participation in the Maundy Thursday foot washing and stated that the cleaning of the church will take place from 9:00 a.m. till finish on April 14 (Pat Lehman is doing much of the work and providing leadership).

The Tri-Parish Christian Formation Committee reported that Dave Dorgan (OLGH) and Judy Dollhausen (SC) emphasized that homelessness should be a significant concern of the committee. Attention was also given to the development of a senior summer program.

No other committee reports were received.

Parish Director's Report

Debbie Hintz reported by Time and Talent forms will soon be going out, with a special emphasis this year on asking people to pray for the parish and its volunteer leadership. The Appreciation Social for those volunteer leaders will be held on Friday, April 27.

The school lease is nearing completion and a new deficit budget may be done in May; boiler replacement is being built into the budget.

There will be several meetings, beginning with an informational one, on effective parishes.

Parishioner information for the diocese will be updated this summer.

Tri-parish planning is still proceeding slowly.

2000 postcards featuring the Holy Week and Easter schedule were mailed to people likely between 30 and 50 years old who have been in the neighborhood for 2-3 years.

The April Pastoral Council meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24; Jeanette MacMurdo will be the prayer leader.

Debbie and Sue Niemi will discuss the next seasonal flyer.

Fifteen people attended and appreciated the funeral planning session; more such will be held, likely this coming November.

Much paperwork is involved in preparing for a columbarium.

What are you hearing?

Rick Korpela spoke highly of the tri-parish retreat.

Barb Holt should speak with the Human Concerns Committee (and Judy Dollhausen) regarding the next cookie sale.

Closing Prayer

All joined in reciting together the Prayer for the Mission of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Les Paulson, Secretary