

**St. Catherine of Alexandria**  
**8661 North 76<sup>th</sup> 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 25, 2017

**Attendees:** Council members Ralph Boeckl, Marie Brushafer, Maureen Conaty, Rick Korpela (Trustee Treasurer), Lyn Keever, Pat Lehman (Trustee Secretary), Jeanette MacMurdo, Sue Niemi, Les Paulson, and Debbie Hintz (Parish Director)

Excused were Sue Armacost and Lynne LeMense.

Also present was Sue Wassenberg, a parishioner and a nominee for election to the Pastoral Council.

**Opening Prayer**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.; Lyn Keever led the opening devotion.

**Comments from Parishioners who are present**

Sue Wassenberg had no comments, wanting only to observe.

**Approval of the March 28, 2017 Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lyn Keever, seconded by Rick Korpela, and adopted.

**Committee Reports (questions/clarifications)**

- The Christian Formation, Human Concerns and School Advisory Committees reported no meetings since the last Pastoral Council meeting. Lyn Keever commented that there have been no developments regarding the restructuring of the School Advisory Committee.
- Ralph Boeckl's report on the April 18 Finance Council meeting noted parish budget discussions, quotes being obtained for an expansion of the upper parking lot and a new fire alarm in the school building, the transfer of funds to Wells Fargo for greater interest, and consideration of the rental of the school building and its effect on the parish budget. The Finance Council also heard that Northwest Catholic classes will all be at Our Lady of Good Hope in the coming school year with the hope of expanding again in the future. A long range possibility: Could our school building again host Northwest Catholic?
- Sue Armacost's report on the April 4, 2017, Prayer & Worship Committee meeting noted that the November 2017 All Souls Mass will follow the same good format as the 2016 Mass and breakfast, heard very positive comments regarding the November 2016 Lector/Scripture training, reviewed the fairly extensive preparations for the Triduum and Easter, and thanked Judy Lazniak for the wonderful work she does to beautify our church.
- Marie Brushafer noted that she was not able to attend the Stewardship Committee meeting; the report, which noted the finalization of plans for the Volunteer Appreciation Social on April 28 and a six-week education in stewardship to begin after Easter Sunday, was submitted by Julie Stamm.

**Parish Council Elections/Nomination & Selection Committee Updates**

The committee (Marie Brushafer, Lyn Keever, and Jeanette MacMurdo) reported that there are four nominees for election to the Pastoral Council and an election will therefore be necessary; it will be held on May 20/21. Biographies of the nominees will appear in the bulletin two weeks before that; it was noted that proper steps

are being taken to ask the nominees for their input on these biographies. Ushers will collect the ballots at the May 20/21 masses; they will be counted after the May 21 mass. New members will be invited to the Pastoral Council's June 27, 2017, potluck.

### **Update on the April 24 Deanery meeting**

Sue Niemi reported that the Deanery heard from the Rev. Timothy Kitzke, the Vicar General for Urban Ministry, about a program called "Caring Parishes." Details will be furnished for consideration at the next Pastoral Council meeting.

### **2017-2018 Parish Budget Report**

Two budgets are being developed depending on whether the school building is rented; there is serious interest in the rental of the facility. One budget proposal will reflect rental income; the alternative will show a deficit, which might be ameliorated by some transfers of funds. Rick Korpela noted that the Finance Council will likely approve the deficit budget and hope that it can be modified. "Say your prayers, people," urged Pat Lehman. Tenancy could well require professional cleaning, which under the circumstances would be an expected and even welcome expense. Rick suggested that some kind of special appeal might be necessary to provide for special projects which could not be provided for in the regular budget.

### **Parish Director's Report**

Debbie Hintz commented on her approval for a sabbatical, which will last from the end of August to mid-December. She will be at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago (and in the midst of a hub of ecumenical theological activity). During her absence, Fr. Greg Greiten, pastor of St. Bernadette, will serve as temporary administrator of St. Catherine. Debbie feels that St. Catherine has enough leadership and resources to carry on effectively in her absence, (though she will surely be missed) and that Fr. Greg might also benefit from his experience of administering more than one parish (though Debbie also noted that a temporary administrator cannot actually change anything).

### **What are you hearing?**

There have been very positive comments about how well done was Holy Week worship and how well presented were the scripture readings of Lent and Holy Week.

Lyn Keever noted that some people were confused about the Easter Day schedule of two masses; Debbie commented that such a schedule would have to continue on future Easter Days inasmuch as both masses were very well attended.

Ralph Boeckl reported seeing a crow perched on the cross on the church's steeple at 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday afternoon and wondered if that were a good omen.

### **Closing Prayer**

Lyn Keever concluded the meeting with an eloquent prayer of gratitude for all the Lord's blessings and for the support and encouragement of fellow St. Catherine's members, concluding with a recitation of the Lord's Prayer. At about 7:45 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.