

Record of Minutes for Saint Vincent de Paul Parish Commissions

Name of Committee: **Catholic & LGBTQ+ Community Talk**

Dates: **Saturday, March 11, 2023**

Commission Members: **Robin and Paula Adair, Ulius Benson, Father Norm Douglas, Selena Holmes, Hank Inman, Jerry Kelly, Jeffrey Lindholm, Patty McCluskey, Rita Rochford, Kathie and Dave Shoenfelt, Jim Zwisler**

Committee Members Present: **various members of the parish and the local community**

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order by: **Father Norm Douglas & Fran Wilson** Time: **10:10 am**
- Agenda items discussed:
 - **introductions, prayer, and ground rules**
 - **review of the “big picture” perspective of these discussions which are taking place not only in our parish but also in our diocese, diocese throughout the USA, and in the global church**
 - **distribution of an Outreach (an LGBTQ Catholic Resource) article “Diocesan listening sessions reveal struggles of LGBTQ Catholics and their families” by Stephen McNulty / September 16, 2022**
 - **Event planning session introduction - two possible focus areas:**
 1. **LGBTQ+ parents and family members who are concerned about their children not being welcomed and thus excluded from the Catholic Church**
 2. **LGBTQ+ Catholics who feel isolated or cast aside from the church due to the Catechism language which refers to homosexual acts as “intrinsically disordered”**
 - **Related to planning for parents and family members, the discussion then centered on the identification of potential obstacles:**
 1. **the wide range of parental and family member views and attitudes as to accepting and recognizing their LGBTQ+ children**
 2. **the skepticism of LGBTQ+ members as to the church’s current outreach for reconciliation through this synod on synodality**
 3. **the possible religious and political views of other parishioners that could impede a welcoming attitude at the parish level**

- **Decisions made:**

- to determine appropriate path to inform and invite our parish into these discussions
- to discuss/determine planning opportunities at the April meeting
- to continue meeting and to invite new participants
- to reach out and collaborate with other nearby parishes (Prince of Peace in Norton) who are also involved in these parish level discussions

- Next meeting's topics: **continued event planning**

- Date and location for next meeting: **Due to Easter weekend, this committee will meet on Saturday, April 22, at 10:00 am in the Scullen Room. The May meeting will return to the regular schedule of meeting on the second Saturday of the month (May 13).**

- Meetings Adjourned: **11:45 a.m.**

- Submitted by: **Jim Zwisler (Community Outreach Liaison)**