

Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting September 14, 2016 (Annex of the church)

Members Present:

ExOfficio Member: Father Bob Spencer

Parish Council Representatives: Sue Wilkinson, Dick Stocchetti, Claire Clasen, Jim Hines, Sheila Horan, Barry Yachem, Melissa Madrigal, Lance Solaroli

Committee Members: Debbie Gausmann: RE & Adult Faith Formation; Rick Gausmann: House Church Leadership Committee; Virginia Cotter: Parish Social Ministries; Anne Boeh: Community Life; Nate Garn: New Evangelization

Guest: Joseph Topp (Proposal of a prayer garden)

Members Absent:

ExOfficio Member: Deacon Tom Thompson

Parish Council Representatives: Frank Grim

Committee Members: Dave Stallard: Liturgy Committee; Youth Ministry Representative

Opening Prayer and reflection: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Lectionary: 638): Sue Wilkinson

Faith Formation: Began reviewing the Called To Serve document for Parish Councils put out by the Diocese of Richmond. Went over and discussed page 8 (Introduction: Signs of the Times and Advisory Capacity) of the Called to Serve document.

Discussion:

- What would we add or subtract to the signs of the times? Suggestions were given of items to add: tensions in the church, social ministry, church law/hierarchy, clergy
- What does our parish look like? Who are we? What is meant by our parish? Every person in our geographical area is part of our parish and are the people we serve, as well as those who are members of our parish. We are responsible for all in need. We are changing – we are getting more families with young children, more Asians, more aging. Each group has needs.
- We need to provide for our community and go beyond our community. Some questions were raised: What are our demographics? (the current report of what we have on file is not up to date). How do we meet our needs – do we need new ministries?
- In the past a count of people at each mass was done and recorded (it is not done now). This could be a way to put a number to how many people come to the parish. Need to know ethnic backgrounds and if their needs.
- New evangelization is aware of these issues and is looking at them.
- Debbie meets 6 times/year with the LPA (as a way to keep informed about other parishes and what they are doing. We may need to work with other churches as well as parishes to minister to the needs of our community (like with PORT, Newsome Bailey Project). Foster more communication between the parishes.
- The parish council is required by the Bishop to serve in an advisory capacity, to meet the spiritual needs of the parish, to be Prophetic (calling the parish to grow in faith, to respond to the spiritual needs of the people, to align ourselves to gospel values)
- It was suggested that we need to know who we are as a parish, what our material and spiritual needs are, how to meet these needs. We need to understand our community and what we want to be, what ministries we want.
- Mission and vision need to be fluid. Need to look ahead 3 to 5 years – looking forward, and align us with God's call.

Upcoming Events:

Sept 17th

Parish 30th Anniversary: Special Mass on Saturday 9/17 celebrated by the Bishop; reception afterward. Ministry Fair will be set up around the outer walls of the church

Guest Presentation: Joseph Topp:

Joe presented his plan to build a Prayer Garden. He showed us his design and materials and estimated costs involved. He will need to raise the funds or get donations for the project. It will be located in the outdoor area adjacent to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Committee Reports:

New Evangelization: Nate Garn:

The groups focus is currently on the domestic church (family)

Parish Community Life: Anne Boeh:

The parish is having its 30th anniversary mass Saturday, September 17 with the Bishop. There will also be a ministry fair that weekend at all the masses.

Social Ministries: Virginia Cotter:

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT FY2016:

- Food Pantry - 22 visits per day (312 meals per day)
- Parish Thrift Shop continues to provide emergency relief to the needy in Poquoson/York
- Haiti sponsorship - close to 5,000 students sponsored since 2000
- Active participation of Kairos "outside" prison ministers (cookies, prayers)
- Committed group of Port Winter Shelter Program volunteers
- Significant increase in Parish Social Ministry outreach collection (80%)

HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY:

- **"Run with the Son for Haiti 5K"** - Dec. 3, 2016. This is the 10th anniversary of the race, and the 5th year for the benefit of our Haiti Ministry. Dr. Clark's Center for Weight Loss Management (Tom and Karol Clark) is, for the 10th year, the presenting sponsor. Our race website --stkaterirun.com --is already up and running. We're actively looking for race sponsors. Please contact the Haiti Committee, if interested. In 2015 the 5K raised \$12 700, allowing 127 primary school students to attend school tuition-free for one year.
- **Education Summit - August 6, 2016, Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke** - Three members from the Haiti Committee met with our TN partners at the Education Summit in Roanoke. The event was hosted by the diocesan Haitian Education Support Team (OSM, Haiti Twinning). Mr. Richard Joseph, Director of Education for the Hinche Diocese, was present to answer questions.
- **Haiti Trip** - October - to take photos for the Student Sponsorship Program

House Church Leadership Committee: Rick Gausmann

We have 5 active house churches out of 10. House church Valmore will now include Westover. House church Grafton will try a change of meeting to a potluck after the 5:30PM mass this month and will include the inactive Poquoson house churches to try to get them involved again. The house churches are in the process of reviewing their charter.

RE & Adult Faith Formation: Debbie Gausmann

Junior religious ed and the childrens religious ed have already started and the senior group will start this weekend (9/18). The youth need to sign up for the summer camps. The adult faith formation is meeting on Monday nights and is studying: Door of Mercy. They currently have about 24 people attending.

Input from Pastor:

- There will be a new website up soon. Claudia will be in charge of it, but groups will have access to be able to load their information. (All parish websites need to be put into the main website).
- The parish is now re-cycling. We have a recycling bin outside as well as a regular dumpster (please be sure the correct items are put in the correct bin). There are also some recycling containers in the church.
- The parish now has new tables.
- Hiring for the open parish positions is complete.
- Father is establishing two new committees: Liturgy and Social Ministry. He wants these up and running soon.

Next PPC meeting: Wednesday, Oct 12, 2016 at 7PM in the Annex

Volunteer to lead opening Prayer: Melissa Madrigal

Notetaker: Sheila

Respectfully submitted, Sheila Horan