

**Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
November 9, 2016  
Annex of the church**

**Members Present:**

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer

Parish Council Representatives:

Dick Stocchetti, Claire Clasen, Jim Hines, Sheila Horan, Barry Yachem, Melissa Madrigal

Committee Members:

Debbie Gausmann: RE & Adult Faith Formation; Larry Kervella: Youth Ministry Representative

**Members Absent:**

Parish Council Representatives:

Frank Grim, Lance Solaroli, Sue Wilkinson

Committee Members:

Dave Stallard: Liturgy Committee; Rick Gausmann: House Church Leadership Committee; Virginia Cotter: Parish Social Ministries; Anne Boeh: Community Life; Nate Garn: New Evangelization

**Opening Prayer and reflection:** Prayer by St. John Chrysoston by Claire Clasen

**Faith Formation:** Went over and discussed pages 10-13 of the Called To Serve document.

**Discussion of pages 10-13 (Mission of the church and the Parish Pastoral Council):**

- Keep people informed of the larger church, not just our parish
- Need to eliminate misunderstandings and work for unity in the church
- St. Kateri seems to do live up the values and addresses these values (We value: worship and liturgy, Transmitting our faith tradition to the next generation, Action for justice and peace in the larger society, a style of ministry that is both creative and collaborative, Lay participation in the mission of the church, Inclusion of all people in the church, Community). We may need to start looking into some bi-lingual resources for religious education.
- Through our ministries we meet the mission of the parish
- The main parts of the mass are the same (in all the churches), but the building/structure and superficial things are different.
- We all bring our unique gifts and roles to the church to share in the responsibility for the mission of the church.
- We have a strong community so that those who come and go build up our church.
- To be prophetic means we need to point out what is in our parish.
- Activities:
  - Discuss continuing the “meet and greet after” the masses for the members of the parish council to interact with the parishioners.
  - Father would like each member of the parish council to attend each of the other masses.
  - Still need to work at being welcoming and reaching out.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business: None**

## Committee Reports:

### **New Evangelization:** Nate Garn:

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

Committee met 11/2/2016, 4 members were present (Nate Garn, Gretchen Murri, David Kenneally, Debra Gausmann):

- Reviewed progress of the committee since it started 1000 days ago. Since starting the ministry, we now have:
  - Men's prayer breakfast
  - Mom's group
  - Welcoming visitors at mass with the hospitality ministry
  - Coffee ministry during the summer
  - Hearing impaired devices and large print worship aids for Mass
  - Pastoral leadership reading REBUILT
  - Parish Picnic (at Pentecost)
  - Anniversary Banner
  - New Website
  - Increased use of the CD lending library
  - Continued discussion on a new pictorial directory for the parish
- Debbie and Nate attended the Diocesan training for the next stage of the New Evangelization process. The next stage focus is on the domestic church. Diocesan wide successes:
  - Sense of accepting the new Evangelization movement
  - People are moving toward a more intimate relationship with Jesus
  - Diocese is now working in stages, not years as was done when the new evangelization started.
  - Recommendations from the training:
    - Pray. Use the evangelization prayer during liturgical gatherings, committee meetings, Sunday mass
    - Celebrate: Individual members, Past successes and failures, publish our progress in the bulletin and on the website
    - Adapt: Consider changes of roles of team members if needed. Invite new individuals to join the team
    - Reinvest: in people, less in programs perse. Reflect on how families are represented in the evangelization team goals, use stage 1 goals to inform work of stage 2.
    - Consider an Evangelization Team Retreat
- Family Ministry Committee: Need to form an energetic, diverse family committee that represents the modern family structure that will help with the domestic church. Things to focus on include:
  - Child care or nursery during Mass
  - Playground area outside
  - Obvious signs and indicators that families with children are welcome and wanted
  - January is the target date to identify the Family Ministry Committee
- Parish Picnic: Confirm that Father wants a picnic on Pentecost again and then put a committee together to begin the planning in January. Father confirmed this at the Parish Council meeting.
- Parish Directory: Still viable but on hold for now. This is something that is needed and should be rekindled when it is possible to move forward.
- Other ideas and Suggestions:

- Remember that evangelization is individual, as easy as saying “Hello”. There is no need to fear the word. Be an example – speak directly – ask.
- Pray for families through the Evangelization team or utilize the prayer chain.
- Create Social Nights: such as friends and family nights, dances, gather around the bon fire
- Advertise ourselves, go to House Church meetings and speak on the efforts and successes of New Evangelization
- Get other ministries involved or partner with them.
- Witness talks before meetings
- Become a disciple

**House Church Leadership Committee:** Rick Gausmann

No news. Have not met since last Parish Pastoral Council.

**Social Ministries:** Virginia Cotter:

HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY:

- **Haiti Trip** - Melissa Spiszer and Judy Townsend were in Boucan-Carre, Haiti, Oct. 16-20 to take photos of the students from the primary and secondary schools for the Student Sponsorship Program. All together, they took 1,220 photos in 2 days. They reported that the building project involving the rectory/hospitality building and the primary school addition are going well. Expected opening will be sometime in January 2017.
- **"Run with the Son for Haiti 5K"** - Dec. 3, 2016.  
Our deadline for sponsorship inclusion in the official race t-shirt is Nov. 20.  
We are still collecting items to be included in the silent auction/raffle on race day.
- **Student Sponsorship Program - Begins Dec. 3.** Cost of sponsorship is the same as last year --\$100 for primary and \$200 for secondary. Our goal is to raise \$55,000 (combined with 5k) to meet the budget needs of the primary and secondary schools.

FOOD PANTRY:

- Turkeys needed for Thanksgiving. The Food Pantry expects to provide meals for 190 families, but planning for 200, just in case.

PRISON MINISTRY:

- Two "inside ministers" attended the Kairos retreat on Oct. 20-23. Many thanks to the outside ministers for their participation in cookie-baking and prayers.

HOMELESS MINISTRY:

- St. Kateri will be hosting the shift on Nov. 26-27 at Temple Baptist Church in Newport News. This involves serving dinner and breakfast, distributing beddings, checking out guests and cleaning. Please contact Eileen Leininger, if interested.

ECOLOGY MINISTRY:

- The group met on Oct. 16 and discussed goals for the ministry:
  - 1) raise awareness of our responsibility to care for "our common home"
  - 2) advocate for responsible use of resources
  - 3) support parish activities pertaining to environmental stewardship

There is no funding for this ministry this year and this year's activities are focused more on exploring how to integrate "Laudato Si" into current parish activities.

**Parish Community Life:** Anne Boeh:

The Wasaff Memorial mass reception was exceptionally nice.

**RE & Adult Faith Formation:** Debbie Gausmann

Adult Faith Formation Meeting took place on Oct. 20, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Library, 4 members were present (Virginia Cotter, Nate Garn, Debbie Gausmann, Walt Miller). Budget - expense account for materials now stays in AFF budget. Program Update:

Spring/Summer 2016:

- Women's Bible Study - "The Gift of Years (Chittister)" and "At Home With the Word" - 20-25 attendees
- Monday Night study group - Creed, Corinthians
- "Laudato Si" - between masses, 7 attendees, group decided on a parish response and have formed an ecology ministry
- Vacation Bible School - Letters of Mother Theresa
- Retreat - March 18-19 - "Women of the Gospel"
- Men's retreat with Mark Hoggard

Fall 2016 Programs:

- Women's' Bible Study - start date - Oct. 5, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, - Symbolon (DVD and workbook), At Home with the Word
- Monday Nights - Doors of Mercy - Sept. 12 - Nov. 14, 24 signed up, average attendance of 20 - 25
- Advent - "Journeying with Mary through the Scriptures" (Sri). Will have 4 weeks of advent, and then 4 weeks in January.
- Bishop Keane Institute - Nov. 11, Immaculate Conception Church, Ron Rolheiser (Holy Longing)

Winter 2017 Programs:

- Monday nights – Pillars II-The Sacraments (Will start Feb 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Retreat - January 20-21, 2017 - "Women in Acts and the Epistles"

Other program reports under or working with Adult Faith Formation:

- Reading Material/AFF Table - added 25 more CDs, finding it challenging to order affordable books for table offerings; Advent meditation booklets have been ordered. CD's are well used.
- House Church Program - Renninger's program on "Mercy", "Doors of Mercy", "Luke"
- Web AFF Resources - Nate will be working on adding the sites we had with the old website
- Senior's Group - inactive; on hold
- Mom's Group - going well; 10 moms plus children; meets every Friday in the Annex
- Young Adult Group - would like to focus on regional activities --each parish sponsoring an activity; Theology on Tap not getting publicity in a timely manner
- Men's Group - 8 attendees at September meeting; needs to be better advertised
- March for Life - January 29, 2017 - coordinate with Ricky Sowell
- Ministry Fair - not well-attended
- Debbie is working on a young adult ministry with other parishes. We'd like to combine the efforts of the parishes and form this group together. They are working with the Dioceses to see what they can do. Looking at having adults up to 30 years old, perhaps studying, Theology on Tap.

#### New Business:

- Recruiting AFF Committee members
- Five-Year Plan Review - Debbie will have plan available at next meeting.
- Next meeting - January 5, 2017

#### Youth:

##### Report of past events:

- Service Saturday in October had about 45 students helping. Trunk or Treat had a large turnout. High school and young adults had a good time, as did the children.

##### Upcoming Events:

- Laser tag – social event on November 12<sup>th</sup>
- Coat Drive – collecting coats to be given out through St. Vincents. There will be a St. Nicholas party where they will wrap gifts, and then deliver the gifts and coats.
- Will attend Eggleston where our students will meet and interact with special needs people.
- DYC – Youth convention: 7 Youth have signed up to attend
- Movie night in January – to socialize
- Talent Show (Fundraiser) in March. The topic will be the decades (60's, 70's etc.).
- Other Fundraisers: yard sale, car wash, and Bingo
- Christian concert in Norfolk is being looked into.
- St. Paul soup kitchen: (Saturdays, maybe once/month) Youth will provide food and serve.

#### Children:

- Had Saints on Parade (ran by the Middle School students). 60 children attended and all had a great time

- Salvation Army stockings are being given out for the children and their families to fill and return to the church to be given out by the Salvation Army.
- An Epiphany Pageant is being planned
- Reconciliation Class is going well.

**Liturgy:** David Stallard

The liturgy committee has met twice. The Eucharistic Ministers workshop will take place Nov. 17 to make sure we all know what Father wants. Later there will be workshops for the other liturgical ministers.

**Discussion of reports:**

- We want children in church but we also need to be able to listen in Mass. The Pre-K room is being looked into to be a room that can be used during mass for children to go with parents. The toys would be removed, and the room would be wired so that the mass could still be heard.

**Pastors Notes:**

- Father wants to get Social Ministry group going. Wants to know what is happening and have open communication, and wants to discuss what we may be missing.

**Next PPC meeting: Wednesday, Dec 14, 2016 at 7PM in the Annex  
Formation will cover pages 14-16 of Called to Serve**

Volunteer to lead opening Prayer: Dick Stocchetti

Respectfully submitted, Sheila Horan