

**Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
October 10, 2018  
Annex of the church**

**Members Present:**

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer  
Lori Yankoski

Parish Council Representatives:

Kathy Stocchetti, Rick Sowell, Nate Garn, Barry Yachem, Melissa Madrigal, Lance Solaroli,  
Claire Clasen, Sheila Horan

Committee Members:

Larry Kervella: Youth Ministry Representative, Rick Gausmann: House Church Leadership  
Committee; Nate Garn: New Evangelization

**Members Absent:**

Parish Council Representatives:

Frank Grim

Committee Members:

Debbie Gausmann: RE & Adult Faith Formation; Dave Stallard: Liturgy Committee; David  
Keneally: Parish Social Ministries: Open

**Call to Order**

**Opening Prayer and reflection:** Nate Garn

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were amended and approved.

**Old Business:**

- **Ministry Chart:** The ministry chart was reviewed. Some ministries were shifted. Causes where we make donations were grouped together and placed under administration. The headings of the chart were reviewed and finalized. Lori Yankoski volunteered to update the chart. The chart is on the last page of these minutes.
  - The current categories are: Social Justice, Worship, Formation, Community, New Evangelization, Knights of Columbus, and Administration. Each category will need one lead person and a backup person to represent their category and report to the Parish Council.
  - For the Parish Council each group should report their activities to the category representative, so they can inform the Council of how each group supports the mission of the parish and the upcoming activities that will occur. If there is nothing to report, the ministry should inform the representative that there is nothing to report.
  - Sheila Horan will work on a tentative report template and Nate Garn will coordinate with the ministries in the Social Justice category for input for the November Parish Council.
  - It would be ideal if the ministries under each category could meet with representatives from the ministries in their category to share information and plans, and then select a group representative for the Parish Council.
- **Update Bylaws:** Each person received a paper copy of the current by-laws. All members are expected to read through the by-laws and make corrections and be prepared to comment on the by-laws at the next parish council meeting.

## Committee Reports:

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

The Evangelization committee is looking for new members and plans to recruit more people for this ministry. They have put together a lot of ideas for this year:

- One thing they want to get started in the parish is a pro-life advocacy group and make this group visible in the parish. They plan to continue to participate in the March for Life but want to do more.
- Meet and Greet: A quarterly social to have new parish members come to together and meet Father Bob, each other and get to know the some of the people of the parish has been in the planning stages. This would be a small reception of finger foods. They are hoping to get people who will organize this. The first meeting will occur this fall.
- To help our parishioners who need temporary medical equipment, the Evangelization committee suggests that we have a medical loan closet where people could borrow wheel chairs, crutches, etc. The problems are that we'd need a space to store the items (and there is no space in the church), and someone or group to run it.
- Have the House churches sponsor a fall social for the parish. This fall it could be a bon fire with hot dogs, cocoa, hot cider, and bon fire activities for the entire family. The proposed date for this is Saturday, November 17 after the 5:30 PM mass.
- The Ministry Fair has been set for President's Day weekend February 16/17, 2019. This is to allow parishioners to see the various ministries in the parish available to them, to get information and to ask questions. It was noted that attendance at the fair tends to be small and having this on a holiday weekend may decrease the numbers, but it was also hoped that having it before lent starts would allow people to be more open to serving or trying out different ministries. There are some ideas being considered that things that need to be done to make this a success:
  - Having someone oversee the Fair
  - Find a way to draw in more people
  - May want to put a flyer in the bulletin to inform people about the various ministries:
    - The flyer would only cover a few at a time and this would be over several weeks
    - Monthly could have some give a brief talk about their ministry and rotate through each of the ministries.
- The Dave Ramsey Financial Planning workshop is still in progress. Evangelization is hoping to get a grant to for this.
- Our parish used to have a way to help those in need pay their bills. Evangelization would like to see the parish establish a fund to support people in need with a limited amount of funds. We would need to collect donations for this fund, and we'd someone to co-ordinate it. Currently people in need are sent to the Thrift Store or to Catholic Charities.
- Evangelization is looking for ways to build up our community through socialization. Some ideas were tossed around:
  - Valentines Day Dance, perhaps with a dinner as well
  - New Year's Eve Family night celebration followed by breakfast at mid-night.
  - Dances for the middle and/or high school students

### **House Church Leadership Committee:** Rick Gausmann

- The house church leadership committee met this week. We reviewed the calendar for the Lent Soup Suppers and we are working on getting the suppers covered.
- It was proposed to have the House churches sponsor a fall social for the parish. This fall it could be a bon-fire with hot dogs, cocoa, hot cider, and bon fire activities for the entire family. The proposed date for this is Saturday, November 17 after the 5:30 PM mass. The house churches did not object.

**Social Justice:** Dave Keneally: (read to Council by Sheila Horan)

- Haiti Twinning Ministry:
  - **Haiti Solidarity Dinner, June 3, 2018:** We had a very successful Haiti dinner on June 3. The dinner was well attended and two of our twinning partners from Sacred Heart, Knoxville, attended again this year. They feel it is important to let our parish know how much our part of the twinning process means to the success of our mutual efforts.
  - **Eastern Regional Haiti Gathering:** Three Haiti committee members (Bill McDonald, Virginia Cotter, Judy Townsend) attended the Eastern Regional Haiti Gathering in Virginia Beach, Sept. 29, 2018. There were 16 parishes represented. The guest speaker was Fr. Jacques Volcius, chairman of Caritas, Hinche. The theme was: “The Dignity of Work – Investing in People”. Father addressed the need for vocational training as well as job opportunities for those trained. Also, in attendance were representatives from the Diocesan Haiti Twinning Support group. The Diocese reported they are in the process of hiring coordinators for each of the regions: Western, Central and Eastern.
  - Haitian Education Support Team reported there are 160 Catholic schools in Haiti. 4 regular supervisors to visit the schools for observation, evaluation and recommendations for teacher training.
  - **Haiti Mission Trip:** Judy Townsend and Bill McDonald will be visiting St. Michel, Oct. 22 – 26. The main purpose of the visit is to discuss with the Sisters an expanded sewing school as well as continue already established relationships. The Sisters who run the primary school have been offering sewing and cooking classes for the students who are not in the academic track. There are currently 14 students in the class.
  - **Upcoming events:**
    - Student Sponsorship Program – Nov. 17/18, 24-25 2018 (resumes in January)
    - \$100 per year for primary
    - \$200 per year for secondary
    - Covers the full cost of schooling, including tuition support, books and school supplies, uniforms and a daily hot meal for the primary students.
    - Run/Walk with the Son for Haiti 5K – Dec. 1, 2018. We are still in need of race sponsors -individuals and businesses. Please check our race website: [stkaterirun.com](http://stkaterirun.com) for more information and registration.
    - Our fundraising goal is to raise \$50K to help support the school’s budget of the primary and secondary schools.
- Food Pantry
  - The Food Pantry has been hurt by the closing of the Farm Fresh in Poquoson, but we are slowly finding new suppliers. This loss has not been so great as to change how we serve those in need, it has just made our job of keeping the pantry supplied a bit more difficult. For the second half of our fiscal year (January 1 through June 30) we have served 783 families which include 988 children, 1541 adults, and 259 seniors for a total of 2788 people. Each family receives enough food to feed their family for a week. We are determined to provide a healthy diet for those in need, so the quantity of food needed and the expense of providing what is not donated is great. The management staff at the pantry ask that you remember the poor when grocery shopping each week for your own families.
- PORT
  - St. Kateri has again agreed to be a partner church for an evening/overnight/early morning during the week of Thanksgiving at Temple Baptist Church in Newport News. Exact day of service will not be known until late October. St. Kateri has recently been invited to participate in A Night’s Welcome which is the Hampton counterpart of the PORT winter

homeless shelter which also includes Tabb. We are looking for volunteers who may be interested in heading up participation with A Night's Welcome.

- Kairos
  - Kairos has been sending in one inside member for a 4-hour monthly reunion during the last quarter. We currently have a 4-day event scheduled for 25-28 Oct. Kairos Inside is also starting to visit the incarcerated juveniles at Sussex II State Prison (this requires two people to visit). We've currently made four visits in conjunction with the monthly reunions.

**Community:** Open: No report

**Formation:** Debbie Gausmann – reported by Larry Kervella

- Monday faith study on Catholicism is going well with 11 -15 people attending
- That Man Is You is going well. They are averaging 22-26 people each week. New people still come and are welcome to join.
- Women's Bible study meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month. They are studying Acts.
- The Book Club meets Thursday mornings and has about 9 people. They are reading Sensible Shoes.
- The Daniel Plan has started up again for the fall. It has a small group of about 8.
- RCIA has 1 or 2 people interested.

Youth: Larry Kervella

- The middle school and high school students had their kick offs and that went well
- There are about 100 students in the youth programs
- All the sacramental preparation groups have gotten started. There will be 4 baptisms and 20 in Confirmation. The first Reconciliation class is encouraging family discussions and is looking at the domestic church.

**Knights of Columbus:** Ricky Sowell

- Oktoberfest: The Oktoberfest was a success. All the tickets sold out. There were about 135 people in attendance. The profit made from the event was \$2350.00. This money will go to the Knights of Columbus disaster relief to help those in need from Hurricane Florence. The only negative comment was that the music was too loud. Everyone seemed to have a great time.
- The Knights are on task to stand up a council early next year. They need to identify men who want to be members and then get recognition for the council.

**Facilities:** Lance Solaroli

- Evaluation of the church building has been completed, and an evaluation will also be done for the annex.
- The Roof is a top priority. We need to get the roof/windows/walls inspected to determine their current condition and then get estimates to repair what the inspection indicates needs to be done. Currently work is being done to check out appropriate contractors for bids, and the Diocese needs to let us know who we need to contact to go forward with work. This work may need to be broken down into stages (most needed first) if costs get too high.
- Two more railings are needed to help people get up to the altar. One would be on the choir, and the other would be toward the front near the lectern.

- There are still some safety issues that need to be addressed:
  - Uneven flooring near the bathrooms
  - Even out the walkway at the parking lot entrance
  - Look at back entrance to make it safe.
- A ramp had been considered for the Annex to make it accessible to all parishioners, but there are some complications due to zoning regulations.

**Worship:** David Stallard: Reported by Barry Yachem

- The dress code: inputs have been received and the dress code is being reviewed
- All Saints day masses will be noon (David Stallard will coordinate) and 7 PM (Tony Mattox will coordinate)
- The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on December 8, we will celebrate it on Dec 7 at 7PM
- For Advent people wanted to do something a bit different, so the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Rosary on the Thursday during advent at 6:15PM
- Re-wording the Welcome to visitors is in the works. For the Sunday masses, it will include an invitation for the visitors to stay for coffee and cookies.
- Greeters will be getting name tags, so people will know who the greeters are.
- The visibility in the parish of the TMIY participants was discussed. The result of the discussion was that it was a better fit for further discussion as part of evangelization

**New Business:**

Ran out of time.

**Pastors Remarks:**

- We need to decide how to handle the ambo announcements so that there aren't so many of them.
- There will be a Mass of Atonement for our region on Tuesday, October 23 at 7:30 PM at St. Jerome's in the Denbigh region of Newport News.
- Monetary giving is down in our parish. Is this due to the priest scandal? If you know or hear of anyone who is doing this, encourage the people to come and talk with Father.

**Closing Prayer: Our Father  
Adjournment**

**Next PPC meeting: November 14, 2018**

Volunteer to lead opening Prayer: Barry Yachem

Respectfully submitted, Sheila Horan

**St. Kateri Tekakwitha**  
Flow Chart 2018/2019

revised 10/15/18

**Pastor: Rev. Robert M Spencer**

Social Justice	Worship	Formation	Community	New Evangelization Committee	Knights of Columbus	Administration	Councils
Ecology Haiti PORT Prison Ministry St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Donations to: - St. Kateri Food Pantry - Lackey Free Clinic - Menchville House - St. Paul's - St Vincent	Choir CLOW Liturgy Committee - Altar Servers - Art & Environment - Funerals - Greeters - Lay Eucharistic Ministers - Lectors - Mass Coordinators - Mass Setup - Ushers RCIA-Rites St Kateri Feast Day Celebration Visitors to the Sick	Adult Formation - Book Club - Daniel Plan - Men's - Monday Evening - Mom's Group - Women's Children's Ministry College Ministry RCIA Sacramental Prep VBS Young Adults Youth Ministry	Green Thumb House Church Meet and Greet - New Parishioners Parish Social Gatherings Prayer Chain Receptions Sunday Coffee	Committee Activities - Bowling - Health Fair - Picnic	Round Table Activities - Fish Fry - Oktoberfest	Facilities Committee Money Counters Staff - Administrative Asst - Business Manager - Coordinator of RE (PreK-5) - Director of Music - Director of RE - Maintenance	Parish Pastoral Council Finance Council