

Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
October 9, 2019 7PM
Annex of the church

Members:

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer
Lori Yankoski

Parish Council Representatives:

Rick Sowell, Nate Garn, Barry Yachem, Melissa Madrigal, Mary Egan, Rick Gausmann, Darlene Heinz, Lindsay Lockett

Committee Members:

Debbie Gausmann: Formation; Larry Kervella: Youth Ministry Representative, Dave Stallard: Worship; Dave Stallard: Knights of Columbus; Paul Gottschlich: Community; Paul Gottschlich: New Evangelization

Absent

Parish Council Representatives:

Kathy Stocchetti, Lance Solaroli, Andrea Lemieux

Committee Members:

David Kenneally: Social Justice

Call to Order

Opening Prayer and reflection: Mary Egan

Faith Formation: Rebuilt Pages 205-240

These two chapters looked at the parish as restorers and parish staffing

Being Restorers – We have mission and ministry

- Mission: Work in partnership with those in need outside the parish. We partner with those in need, so that we work together to make things better
 - Need to have a leader for the mission
 - Need to build a team
 - Need to involve the parish
 - Treat people with dignity and respect
 - We have several missions:
 - Kairos (prison ministry)
 - Haiti
 - PORT (People Offering Resources Together) – winter food and lodging for homeless
 - Food pantry
 - Youth summer missions

- Ministry – inside ministry, growth for our parishioners

Staffing: Up to father and the current staff.

Approval of Minutes for September: Minutes approved as is. Social ministry report will be in October minutes

Old Business:

- **Prepare for the retreat. Read Rebuilt (all of it if possible):** Retreat is Friday 10/11 7-9PM, and Saturday 10/12 10AM – 4PM. Debbie would like a count of people and what they would like for box lunch. Bring the Rebuilt book to the retreat.
- **Parish Council visibility (bulletin boards and web site) – Rick Gausmann:** This is a continued work in progress. Rick needs bios and pictures of each council member and wants information from the major community heads (those who report to the parish council) so people will know who to talk to about things. Rick will also emphasize that the work of the council is vision and direction for the parish. Rick sent out the following to the council:

As you probably remember from our last Parish council meeting, we are putting together a bulletin board so parishioners can identify who we are and who to go to with their inputs. Even though there are pictures and bios on record for most of us, we need to upgrade/update them. Please send me the following info via email as soon as you can:

 - 1) Digital, camera quality picture (head or upper body shot preferred)
 - 2) The email you want with your picture **on the bulletin board**
 - 3) **Short, concise** bio for the website containing the following:
 - Background
 - Current status, employment and/or business activities
 - Parish ministries/activities involved with

The website bios should be informative, not campaign sales pitches that we may have used when running for the Council. I will not put any email info on the website.
- **Meet and Greet - Parish staff and Ministry representatives (September 29 12:15PM at church):** This was well attended. The parishioners were very pleased with the event. See a summary under the evangelization report.
- **Check list for running the parish council elections – Barry Yachem:** Barry worked up a draft of tasks and a timeline for running the parish council elections. It was sent out to members and will be sent out again as a separate document. Members are asked to review the document and send comments to Barry. This will be finalized in November.
- **Harmony Retirement Community – taking care of the needs of the Catholics there – Dave Stallard:** Terry was contacted and found a contact person from St. Joan's who is working with the retirement community. This is a continuing effort

Committee Reports:

New Evangelization: Paul Gottschlich

- **Back to Bethlehem in July!** We still liked the idea of doing this event. Acknowledging that there is already so much going on in December we wondered about doing it in July. This way it could be done outside in the evening in good weather and it would be easier to create various stations through Bethlehem for visitors to walk through. This would work as both an educational tool and an evangelization opportunity. We could also use it as a fund raiser for something like the Haiti Committee and maybe they would organize it if interested.
- **Mass Video's:** Still some request for the Mass to be made available on the website for later viewing. Thinking of those not able to attend or away at college.
- **New Families:** There are many new families at St. Kateri, and we want to find ways to make them welcome and connected as soon as possible. We need to think of ways to show we are welcoming to families, especially with young children. The Family Room is a great example. In the future, a playground area should be considered.

- **Outside Activities:** The Bicycle Club, bowling and other such activities are proving to be healthy and fun, as well as being a good way for parishioners to connect outside of the church while interacting with people in the parish community.
- **Health Fair again?** We discussed the Health Fair we had last year. We think it is a good idea to continue it. Discussed coordinating it during the time of some other national health awareness month? Also discussed if this should be an annual event or every other year? Open to suggestions.
- **New Year's Eve Family Party:** Debbie and Mary Beth are planning the Family New Year's Eve party. Nate is going to write to the Diocese Evangelization Office to see if we can get a Grant to help with the cost.
- **First Meet and Greet for new parishioners (Mary Egan):**
 - was held Sunday, September 29 after the 11 a.m. Mass. In addition to new and recent members of our parish, the three new converts to our faith were welcomed.
 - Refreshments and table decorations added to the success of our first event. Father Bob hosted the packed alcove and lead the introductions of staff, parishioners and ministry leaders. Parishioners also contributed comments to share their view of our parish community.
 - Sign-Ups/Invitations:
 - Previous to the event sign-ups: 7 families/individuals with expected 17 to attend
 - Number of invitations sent: 18 families/individuals
 - Number of families/individuals receiving reminder phone calls: 24 (1 was sign up and Invited)
 - Parish participants on sign-in sheet: 15
 - New members on sign-in sheet: 18 adults and 4 children = 22 (Actual new parishioner attendance)
 - Maureen and her committee provided excellent refreshments. Laurel created outstanding autumn table decorations. Fr Bob, Debbie, Nate, Anita, Laurel, Claudia, Mary Beth, Lori, Frank and Pete provided great care in making this event happen
 - Many thanks to all: Fr. Bob, the Staff, Finance & Parish Council speakers, Ministry Leaders, the Committee, and parishioners who shared their experience about the many events at St. Kateri.
 - The Meet & Greet Committee met on October 9 at 3 p.m. to debrief and get ready for the Winter Meet and Greet. The 2020 events will be January 26, April 26, July 26 and September 27. Please mark your calendars so the staff and each ministry are represented.
- **Comments:**
 - To do the Back to Bethlehem, we would need to form a team.
 - For the Mass Video: Tom Goodman would be the contact to talk to about doing this, but having the video eliminates the community element of mass and the reception of the Eucharist.
 - For the health Fair: The health fair looks at all aspects of health. Unsure of having it yearly or every other year. PPC members should give this thought and give input at the November meeting
 - Funeral Planning: The parish has considered having a funeral planning/support meeting/workshop. We need to work on planning and organization of this outreach. All members should think about this and give input at the November meeting.

Community: Paul Gottschlich

Community Life Services.

- 9/21/19 - Senan Halpin funeral: Would like to thank Chris & Matt Husson, Peggy Warde, Marybeth Young, Virginia Cotter, Alexandra Garvey, Marybeth Cupps, and Zewdi Tu for all their hard work planning and baking for the Senan Halpin funeral. The ladies and Matt did an amazing job. Several of the ladies baked numerous Irish desserts and breads making the reception very special for the family.
- 9/29/19 – Parish Meet and Greet: Community Life Services provided refreshments for new members of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Approximately 30 people attended the function. Chris Husson and Sharon Bender baked homemade desserts for this gathering.

House Churches: No report, since there was no meeting for the house church leadership. It would be helpful to know if the parish wants the house churches to provide soups and clean up for the Lenten Soup Suppers.

Green Thumb - No report, need contact name.

Comments: See what the house churches can cover and then have general sign up by the parish. It would be a good idea to list the ingredients in the soups (or place the recipe with the soup) – this would help with allergies.

Social Justice: Dave Kenneally

Parish Thrift Shop, Inc. & Food Pantry

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who so generously supports the Food Pantry each week by donating food items and with cash contributions. The money donated goes a long way by helping us purchase meats, dairy and other much needed grocery items. A special thank you to Frank and Nancy Martino who served the pantry for many years; Nancy in the pantry, and Frank with food deliveries. they will be greatly missed. The Thrift Shop continues its mission (ministry) to the communities of Poquoson and York County. We are very appreciative of those who donate, and to those who shop with us. We are always looking for volunteers; if anyone is interested, they can contact Elaine Riley at eriley2310@gmail.com. Submitted by Elaine Riley

KAIROS

Kairos had one inside volunteer attend the one-day instructional visit this summer. Either one or two of inside volunteers attended all monthly reunions throughout the summer. Two inside volunteers will attend the fall four-day being held 17-21 Oct. The church made a generous \$700.00 donation defray costs of the event. We're very appreciative of all the contributions the church members make to minister to the prisoner.

Haiti Twinning Ministry September report

Student Sponsorship Program:

November 16/17 and 23/24. No sponsorships during Advent but will resume for two weekends in January 2020. Primary school students, \$100 per year; secondary, \$200.

Run with the Son for Haiti 5K:

The Run With the Son for Haiti 5K is scheduled for December 7, 2019 through Running Man Subdivision. Registration/information available at the race site: www.stkaterirun.com Forms also available at the church (table by the parking lot door and Haiti bulletin board by the library).

An added component to the race is the silent auction and raffle. Included is a special raffle for 3 nights in an Outer Banks condo. If interested in volunteering or donating food and silent auction basket, please contact Judy Townsend: judy.townsend@verizon.net

Outside Events:

September 28 - Eastern Vicarate/Tidewater Regional Gathering, Virginia Beach

October 18 - Haiti Dinner, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Knoxville, TN

October 19 - 2019 Haiti Summit. This event will feature Bishop Desinord Jean and commission members from the Diocese of Hinche. Come gather for this special opportunity to learn from our partners in Haiti on how we as a Diocese can best support sustainable and holistic initiatives. Workshop topics include education, healthcare, and project planning and development, with the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among parishes throughout the state. Participant fee is \$25.00. Mass with Bishop Knestout and Bishop Desinord the evening before.

Office of Social Ministries:

Debbie Gausmann and Virginia Cotter attended the Social Ministry Gathering at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on August 1. Featured speakers included representatives from Peninsula Agency on the Aging, Office of Refugee Resettlement and Office of Black Catholics.

Abby Causey is the new OSM (Office of Social Ministries) coordinator for the Eastern Vicarate.

Formation: Debbie Gausmann & Larry Kervella (Youth)

- Enrollments
 - PK-5 students: 105 and more coming each week.
 - Reconciliation: 17
 - Middle School & High School: 90 +
 - Confirmations: 18
 - 11th and 12th graders: 15 to 18 (they need instructor help, students who help with the retreats need to attend this class)
 - Middle School RCIA: 1
 - RCIA candidates entered the parish in September: 3
 - Continuing RCIA: 2
- Activities:
 - Middle School youth rally: 10 out of 35 are going
 - Ropes Course (Sept 22 and 29): 10 attended each session
 - Trunk or Treat – family event
 - All Saints day festival – Nov 3
 - Multi-parish event at St. Jerome – Nov 3
 - Ready to start up the team for the confirmation retreat

Knights of Columbus: David Stallard

- Membership:
 - Bill Powers is up for third degree this weekend
 - Consistently getting new people, Attendance at meetings is at 50% membership.
 - Rick Gausmann attended Bethel Manor Parish Picnic
- Activities:
 - October Fest went well. Sold 200 tickets; about 180 people attended. Grossed \$4200 and netted \$2500. The money will go to help support the youth missions
 - Knights will actively help with the trunk or treat
 - Knights will sell Christmas cards
 - Knight will be involved with KOVAR in January. KOVAR is a charity that helps people with disabilities.
 - Each council needs to help with Special Olympics. This may involve participating in the Polar plunge.

Administration/Facilities: Lance Solaroli or Lori Yankoski

- Collections are good
- Parish family: 458 parish families, 1400 individuals, about 600/weekend attendance
- Dennis is doing a great job maintaining facilities
- Roof: Lance is working on a new RFP to do some of the recommended work (higher priorities that we can afford)

Worship: David Stallard

- Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, the parking lot door will be closed for entry 5 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time for Mass. A sign will be posted outside the door indicating the door is closed and entry is to be through the main entrance. If Mass has started people will be asked to remain at the entry until after the opening prayer. The first reader will wait until everyone has had a chance to be seated. This is being done to minimize distractions and to attempt to have Mass start at the appointed time. The announcement and sign wording are currently being worked on.
- Tony Mattox requested that deficiencies with the sound system be discussed. The original sound system was installed 10 years ago. It was tested with nobody in the building. With 200 or so people present for Mass sound quality is not consistent throughout the sanctuary. We are looking into having the installer come in and reevaluate and make recommendations. Until then, we can ask people to move to a place where they can hear better or use the hearing assistance aids in the office.
- The Advent theme is “Love, the Guest, is on the way”. The church will give out magnets with this theme
- RCIA coming into full communion with the church for three adults was conducted at the 11 AM mass September 29th, and it went well.
- Meet and Greet went well. Any ideas should be directed to Mary Egan.
- Clarification for Eucharistic ministers – after communion the EMs are not to leave to go to the kitchen until FR Bob sits down. This appears to be working OK.
- There is a white chest/cabinet at the parking lot door. This will be used for upcoming donations for Saint Vincent DePaul.
- Baptism classes are given every other month, and Baptisms occur 6 times/ year.

Pastors Remarks:

- The diocese priest convocation is next week.
- Diocese is looking forward to its bicentennial. Bill Karatin will be our liaison for this.
- St. Michael the Archangel prayer was previously done in low masses but was suppressed in 1964. Doing this prayer at the end of mass would seem to be counterproductive
- “This is Life” with Lisa Lang on CNN is a show worth checking out for young people.

Action Items:

- **Evangelization items to be developed. Leaders to develop and organize teams (including when to have it, how often) for:**
 - 1) **Health Fair**
 - 2) **Funeral Planning support****Council members are asked to think about these groups and give some direction as to what we want from them.**
- **Read through the election procedure/timeline and give comment to Barry**
- **Next Meet and greet meeting is January 26 – ministries need to be represented.**

Closing Prayer – Our Father

Volunteer to lead opening Prayer: Rick Gausmann

Adjournment

**Next PPC meeting: November 13, 2019
(Rebuilt pages 241 - 262)**