

**Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**May 8, 2019 7PM**  
**Annex of the church**

**Members Present:**

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer  
Lori Yankoski

Parish Council Representatives:

Rick Sowell, Nate Garn, Barry Yachem, Melissa Madrigal, Claire Clasen, Sheila Horan

Committee Members:

Debbie Gausmann: Formation; Larry Kervella: Youth Ministry, Dave Stallard: Worship; Rick Gausmann: Community; David Keneally: Social Justice; Paul Gottschlich: New Evangelization; Rick Gausmann: Knights of Columbus; Lance Solaroli and/or Lori Yankoski: Administration and Facilities

**Members Absent:**

Parish Council Representatives:

Kathy Stocchetti, Lance Solaroli, Frank Grim, Young Adult Rep

**Call to Order**

**Opening Prayer and reflection:** David Keneally

**Faith Formation:** Rebuilt pages 85-128

This section of the book focused on what parishes should be sure to do: have good music, be welcoming, have clean worship area, meeting rooms and bathrooms. They should also have help finding parking, be family friendly (starting with children to get excited about coming to church). There was then discussion about how we think we measure up to what the book said. Our parish has made several changes since we first started this book and we are doing well in the above areas – though we don't need the parking help at this point. We have positive greeters welcoming people to mass, a family room, a cleaning service, we have children's liturgy, and the music ministry selects liturgically appropriate music. Our weakest area seems to be the young adult's group. Efforts are being made to involve the young adults by engaging them in ministry (for youth), and Dave Ramsey financial course will focus on young adults this summer, and there will be a That Man Is You geared toward young adults this summer as well. Our students do want to be here – we have good turnout for our programs.

**Approval of Minutes:** February minutes approved with one correction.

**Old Business:**

**Parish Council Elections**

There are 4 applicants for Parish Pastoral council. It was suggested that we meet with them before the election to go over "Called to Serve" and discuss what the council is about. The election will be held the first weekend of June (June 1/2). Rick Sowell, Melissa Madrigal, Barry Yachem and Sheila Horan agreed to meet with the applicants.

**Outreach to the Crossing retirement facility**

No progress has been made on working with the Crossing – now called Harmony Retirement community. It appears that they have a 10:30 AM Sunday service each week, but it is not known what this entails. We still need to find out what the needs are there. Individuals could pick up one or two residents and bring them to church without liability issues. It was suggested that we invite Terri Johnson to brief the council on what is happening.

## **Meet and Greet Activity (Evangelization committee)**

This event is still being planned. First meeting will most likely be in September.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **New Evangelization:** Paul Gottschlich

- **Parish Picnic** – is in planning and preparation mode for June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Meet and Greet with Father Bob** – is still in planning but hope to have the first one very soon. (under Old business it will be September)
- **Medical Equipment Closet** - Carol Garn has volunteered to coordinate a virtual medical equipment closet. She will gather names of people who have equipment they would be willing to lend out to those in need and be the person to contact when someone needs items such as scooters, crutches, bath chairs, wheelchairs etc. Carol has contacts outside the parish also where she can get many items. She will be reaching out and creating a list soon. The items would be kept at the houses and so would not need storage at the church.
- **Bowling** – Coming up again this month. Hope to have at least as many teams as last year. It is a great way to have fun and get to know people from the parish while providing evangelization opportunities. This will start May 19 – sign up at 6PM and bowl at 6:30. Contact Nate Garn for more information.
- **That Man is You!** – Continued to grow all year long with approximately 54 registered participants and an average of 25 attendees every Saturday and the Sunday group has 4 to 8 people. Looking at the possibility of a summer program of some sort.
- **Pro-Life Advocacy** - We believe we should be supporting this issue more actively. It was suggested that we could find someone who could at least coordinate and notify the parish of the many programs and/or events in the area dealing with abortion. (March for Life, 40 Days Campaign, Martha's Vineyard Retreat for those affected by Abortion, and the Virginia March for Life among others). May want to expand pro-life across the board and not just abortion,
- **Live-Streaming** - A parishioner asked New Evangelization if it would be possible to offer a live stream of the Mass or to have a video link available on the website to enable homebound Catholics to view the Mass? To be considered we would need to know the target audience and what numbers would be involved.
- **Family New Year's Eve Celebration** – Several parishioners have voiced a desire to have a New Year's Eve celebration at the church for the whole family, to include games, trivia, other inter-generational activities. This could be promoted through the Religious Ed. Programs as an intergenerational event.
- **Christmas "Back to Bethlehem"** An idea for a Christmas Season event open to the community where guests could bring food pantry items as an entry price and then participate in various scenes of the life of Christ to include, games, trivia, full costumes etc. Acknowledging this would be a big undertaking but could be done in a year or so possibly. People like the idea and that this would be great for kids. Intent was to do this in one night.

**Community:** Rick Gausmann

- Coffee & Cookies: Very well received. Good sense of community gathering after mass. Usually enough cookies but have had to buy some between masses at times.
- House Church: No leadership meetings during lent. The Soup suppers were well attended (25-30). There were enough soups but not a lot left over for seconds. Good job by house churches stepping up even though we only have 3-4 active.
- Community life: No report. They did an excellent job of supporting the ministry fair and soup suppers.
- Green Thumb: No report. Grounds and Meditation trail cleaned up with help of youth and Jim Hines. Two trees have been taken down that affected the trail and the tree service will check back to see if more work needs to be done later this year.
- Bingo: Can always use more help. Think of it as a ministry.

**Social Justice:** Dave Keneally:

- KAIROS: Forty prisoners completed the Kairos program at Sussex II State Prison, 25-26-April 2019, hearing the Gospel, many for the first time. We had two inside ministers participate and outside ministers were fantastic: We had a \$640.00 contribution from the church; 61- ½ hour prayer sign-ups; gobs of placemats drawn by the children; and 179 dozen cookies were baked. Outstanding effort from the entire church! A one-day instructional event will be held at the prison on Sat, 18 May to teach the men to participate in small prayer and share groups in their respective cell blocks in the prison when Kairos volunteers are not present (the ultimate goal of Kairos). Note that it has been 10 months since Sussex I and II State Prisons have had a Catholic priest ministering to the inmates.
- HAITI:
  - Haiti Student Sponsorship:

Total income -	\$56,442.29
Less 5K expense -	(\$2,790.64)
Transfer to Sacred Heart -	(\$50,000.00)
Balance in account -	\$ 3651.65

(designated for Haiti education)  
2019 Student Sponsorship - \$ 335.00  
(outstanding balance)  
Total students sponsored: 451  
(Student Sponsorship Program/ 271, Haiti 5K/180)
  - Haiti Dinner: June 2, 2019, 5:30 p.m.  
Special Guests –
    - Haiti Outreach partners from Sacred Heart Knoxville, TN
    - Steve Applegate (former Haiti Commission Communication team chair, author of: <https://stevenapplegate.wixsite.com/haititodaytomorrow>)
    - Haiti 5k sponsors
  - Run with the Son for Haiti 5K: December 7, 2019  
Planning underway. Presenting sponsor: Lejeune Family Dentistry  
5K online registration already set up and live. <https://www.raceentry.com/runwalk-with-the-son-for-haiti-5k/race-information>
- PARISH THRIFT SHOP: (Private entity but partially supported by St K)  
The Parish Thrift Shop, Inc. is a 501©(3) organization, staffed by unpaid volunteers, which extends care, concern and support for less fortunate families living in Poquoson and York County. Financial assistance is available to qualified families and individuals for utility,

medical, rent and other eligible expenses. We partner with the Bargain Box, ST. Luke's, St. Joan of Arc and other local churches, and civic organizations to offer this assistance. The Food Pantry located within the Thrift Shop is also staffed by unpaid volunteers. The Food Pantry assists needy residents of Poquoson and York County, as well as any active duty military. The Food Pantry is strongly supported by local churches and civic organizations and supplemented by cash donations from many individuals. The Thrift Shop pays for large food purchases. We are grateful to those who shop with us, who donate items we can use to sell, and to those who give so generously to the food pantry by bringing food items to the church and who support us with cash contributions for food purchases. We all have a responsibility of service to the poor and homeless and providing for the hungry. We thank you for helping us with this responsibility. Thank You! Submitted by Elaine Riley

NOTE: Nadine Silcox works in the food pantry (and has for a long time) will be leaving July 2.

- PORT: Input from Ray Minick, PORT leader  
The PORT schedule for host churches was received 5/6. I plan to respond that St. Kateri again agrees to be Partner church sometime during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of PORT (Thanksgiving week) at Temple Baptist Church. The timeline will be as follows:
  - August: volunteers will be contacted via email and the bulletin that St. Kateri will again volunteer at Temple Baptist, with exact date to be determined later (most likely the Saturday night/Sunday morning).
  - September: PORT meeting will be attended to receive upcoming PORT years instructions which will include Food Bank Shopping form. Set up the in-line signup for food donations and staffing will be done.
  - October: Meeting at Temple Baptist to agree with other Partner churches as to what day each will work, coordinate meals, and get contact phone numbers. Email all known volunteers and request sign ups. Contact those who have prepared the meals for a preferred menu. Notices in the bulletin in mid-October and insert in the bulletin the beginning of November.
  - November, after all Masses, make a personal appeal after the announcements for help. Buy food Thanksgiving week and deliver it to the church on Saturday afternoon.
- St. Paul's soup kitchen: The soup kitchen and the church will be closing. There was some discussion as to where to put the funds that we collect for St. Paul's. It was suggested that we either give monies to the Thrift Store/Food Pantry or set up our own fund at the parish to assist those in need. If we set up our own fund, we'd need to be specific as to what it would be for.

**Formation:** Debbie Gausmann

- RCIA is now being done as a year-round process – meaning anyone can join at any time. We currently have 2 candidates in the catechumenate and 1 in inquiry along with one other.
- Sacrament study is going well.
- It was suggested that the parish offer a funeral planning workshop. This is now being worked on.
- A Formation fair is being planned for August.
- For the fall a study on Vatican 2 is planned.
- Under development: Several programs are being worked on for young adults. Debbie will coordinate scheduling for these:
  - That Man is You put out by Paradisus Dei has a new program: Hope Undimmed - a Co-ed group focused on young adults. This is a 7-week program for the summer. This may be opened to other parishes also. It may be led by Denny and a young adult.

- David Ramsey Financial planning will meet on Mondays during the summer – focus on young adults.
- **Youth:** Larry Kervella
  - Mid-school retreat went well. There were 15 mid-school students (50% of our students) attending, with 9 high school students, 3 young adults running the retreat.
  - May 19 - Car wash
  - June 1 – Yard sale
  - June 11 – Graduation mass. There will be a farewell mass in August

**Knights of Columbus:** Rick Gausmann

- Fish fry (served about 150 people) and donated \$1049.87 to the parish.
- Currently 38 members and 1 pending first degree ceremony
- Donating \$50 to Poquoson, Grafton, and Tabb High Schools for their after-prom parties
- June 22: There will be the installation of officers and the New Council Charter Ceremony

**Administration/Facilities:** Lori Yankoski

- Budget: After cutting some requests for money, the parish is just in the black
- Currently: the parish deficit now just \$5k
- Online giving is going well. So far over 60 people have signed up to use it. Using online giving will help save costs on envelopes.
- Facilities: So far only one roofer has gotten back to us with an estimate of what it will cost to make an estimate of what the roof needs. This estimate is \$8400.

**Worship:** David Stallard

- After action for lent/Holy Week
  - Stations of the Cross: There were about 22 people for each of the Fridays of lent doing the stations of the Cross. Having different groups lead the stations gave a good variety and interesting experience. The Meditation trail was rained out on Good Friday – but it is ready for use.
  - Palm Sunday: Palms were given out at the end of mass this year. It allowed for people to pay attention to the Mass instead of “playing” with the palms. Also, having the greeters give them out ensures that we have enough for all Masses. This seemed to work well.
  - Minor issues for the Triduum services were highlighted and guidelines will be updated to preclude reoccurrence.
  - Next year practice time for Holy Thursday will be 6:30 PM and Good Friday will be 7:30 PM on the Wednesday preceding Holy Thursday.
- Pentecost Sunday and Mass on the Grass: This will be June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Only one Mass on Sunday. David Stallard and David Young will be coordinating the Mass.
  - Community life involvement – Maureen Gottschlich
  - Games/toys/fun stuff procurement – Mary Beth
  - Kid games/events on field – Jason Rabideau
  - Decorations/face painting? – Virginia Cotter
  - Sound system – Tom Goodman
  - Set up and tear down can be done Saturday, June 8 and early Sunday morning by the Knights or men’s group and volunteers
  - Hot dog grilling – Ricky Sowell

**New Business:**

**Pentecost mass in the grass/parish picnic** – See Worship report

**Pastors Remarks:**

- Obtaining a priest for Sussex 1 and 2 (Kairos) is in process
- St. Kateri may be getting a deacon – it is the diocese's intent to have a deacon in each parish

**Action Items:**

- Group from the Parish Council (Ricky, Melissa, Barry, Sheila) to meet with those running for parish council. We will try to set up the meeting for Saturday, May 25 from 11 AM to 1PM – meeting with each person for half an hour. Sheila will set up the meeting
- Get a copy of "Called to Serve" to the people running for parish council – Sheila will send out, Lori will get the current copy and contact information of those running for parish council to Sheila
- Dave Stallard will work with Terri for a report on Harmony retirement community.

**Closing Prayer – Our Father****Adjournment**

**Next PPC meeting: June 12, 2019**

**(Rebuilt pages 129-170)**

Volunteer to lead opening Prayer: Paul Gottschlich

Respectfully submitted, Sheila Horan