

Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
February 12, 2020 7PM
Annex of the church

Members:

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer

Parish Council Representatives:

Kathy Stocchetti, Rick Sowell, Nate Garn, Barry Yachem, Melissa Madrigal, Lance Solaroli,
Mary Egan, Rick Gausmann, Darlene Heinz

Young Adult Rep: position open

Committee Members:

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

Absent:

Parish Council Representatives:

Lindsay Lockett

Committee Members:

Jim Hines: Social Justice; Lori Yankoski: ExOfficio

Call to Order

Opening Prayer and reflection: Barry Yachem

Faith Formation: Tools rebuilding (read the first section; pages 1-34):

The overall theme of the reading was: Be productive, have purpose, don't over-do, focus on mission and vision. Each section was then discussed, with comments given below:

1. Structuring time – setting priorities
 - Don't just be busy
 - Need to do quality (effective) not quantity
 - Parish, people, church, assembly: What are we? The people
2. Evangelization
 - Don't do more than you can do
 - Need to focus on those outside the church
 - The more confident we are, the more we feel comfortable talking about our faith
 - There are avenues to help people learn more if they are open to it.
 - People are uncomfortable talking about their faith
3. Pulling down silos:
 - PORT – being open to the parish
 - RCIA – more open and continuous
 - People are invited to be a part of a ministry
4. Being excited about our community
 - Being open to new people brings new ideas and people get excited
 - Getting to know each other makes people comfortable.
 - Getting into one ministry opens the door to other ministries
 - May want to change the start of Mass to welcome our visitors. Mary suggested: Welcome to St Kateri Tekakwitha. We are glad you are here. Share that gladness as we stand and greet our neighbor.
5. NFL – enemy of the church
 - Some people want to get out of church to get on with their sports or Sunday football
 - Travel leagues meet on Sundays

- We vie for people's time and money
6. Strategic tools:

None were discussed.

Next Reading will be chapters 8 – 12 (pages 41 – 59) in the Building Tools book

Approval of Minutes for December: Minutes approved as written

Old Business:

Report on Harmony retirement facility and their needs – No progress made

Funeral planning workshop

Waiting on date and verification on what topics to have. This was discussed and we are looking at a possible date of Saturday, April 25 from 1-3 PM. We should have people attend who are able to address the legal aspects, religious aspects, and funeral home aspects of funeral planning. George from Clayton Rollins funeral home will come, Father Bob, and then we need a lawyer to speak to legal aspects.

Want to include:

- Order of doing things – checklist
- Details – what is involved
- Planning for the liturgy

Committee Reports:

NEW EVANGELIZATION: Paul Gottschlich

- **New Evangelization Committee (NATE GARN)**

- Health Fair - At this time, we have found no one willing to lead or organize the Health Fair event. There have been several willing to participate in the event, but we have only found one person who was willing to be a co-chair if we could find someone else to help out. We haven't found anyone yet. It is still possible to do a health fair this year, but we are running out of time for 2020.
- Funeral Planning Seminar – We are suggesting some dates for this presentation; March 21, 28 or April 4. There are no events scheduled on these Saturdays currently.
 - We also need more clarification on what should be discussed and covered?
 - Do we need to include things such as Estate Planning or just what to plan/expect for a funeral?
- Evangelization Priority Shift - Toward the Stage III of Diocesan “Equipping the Parish”
 - This will primarily mean teaching, showing, encouraging evangelization more directly. Show that evangelizing does not have to be an intimidating experience but can be done simply in everyday encounters. We would like to start a monthly insert into our bulletin with examples of evangelizing, or personal testimony or bible verses related to evangelization such as: Psalm 105:1 “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”.
- Start a Walking Club – similar to the bicycle club but for those who would like to walk for exercise and make new friends.
- Parish Picnic 2020 - The picnic will be on Pentecost which is May 31st this year. Basic picnic planning will begin near the end of the month.
- Marriage Ministry - Suggestions have been brought up in the That Man Is You! Program. Some sort of marriage ministry would have been valuable to them and if we could do something here in conjunction with what Father Bob already does. Possibly where those

wanting to marry could meet with other married couples to discuss and share experiences and ask and answer questions.

- **New Parishioner Meet and Greet: (Mary Egan)**

The revised format for the Meet & Greet was successful according to Fr. Bob, our Table Leaders and the Committee. Fr Bob was our host. He gave a talk, guided introductions and answered questions. This format had more focus on the participants at tables with our Pastoral Council members, Ministry Leaders and Staff leading discussions.

Here are some numbers from the event:

Preparation:

- 22 individuals/families are designated as new members on our 1/26/20 roster.
- 4 individuals/families said they would attend based on our sign-up sheets totaling 6 people - of those: 2 signed up attended - 3 people. (This reflects that half of sign ups attended)
- 21 of the individuals/families on roster were left a message or spoken with about event. One did not have number and another had inaccurate email/no phone

Event:

- 6 individuals/families attended the Meet & Greet; 11 adults and 4 children
- 21 St. Kateri established members attended : 2 Clergy, 4 Staff, 5 Parish Council Members, 2 Ministry Leaders, 4 Committee Members, and 4 Teens

Follow Up – done by Frank Grimm

- Most new members were contacted or got a message, if their info was available.
- 2 ministry inquiries from new parishioners (cookies & choir)

Thank you to all the people who made this event such a success. Laurel Vander Jeugd created great decorations with a winter theme and Maureen Gottschlich provided excellent refreshments! Anita Cox, Pete Egan, Debbie Gausmann and Frank Grimm helped with phone calls and set up.

The next Meet & Greet is [April 26, 2020](#) after the [11 a.m.](#) Mass at approximately [12:15 p.m.](#) Please plan to attend and let Mary Egan know you will be there. She can be reached at [703-912-6441](tel:703-912-6441) or maryanan@aol.com.

COMMUNITY: Paul Gottschlich

- **Community Service (Maureen Gottschlich)**

Supported Meet and Greet in January.

- **House Church:**

- Some house churches still continue to meet
 - House Church Woodlake Crossing/Coventry and House Church Valmore/Westover continue to meet monthly
 - House Churches Grafton, Poquoson East, Poquoson North, and Tabb/Kiln Creek have not met this past fall/winter.
 - House churches do continue to be in contact with members via email.
- The house church leadership committee is no longer meeting. We communicate via email.

- **HOUSE CHURCHES Lenten Soup Suppers**

Date	House church, contact person - activity
March 4	Woodlake Crossing/Coventry (Bob Walsh) - teaching/discussion (Father or Deacon Phil)
March 11	Grafton (Nate Garn) teaching/discussion- (Father or Deacon Phil)
March 18	Poquoson East (Dave Stallard) – prayer through psalms
March 25	Poquoson North (Dave Kenneally) and Tabb/Kiln Creek (Kathy)

Stocchetti) – Healing service

April 1 Valmoore/Westover (Angela Render) – Reconciliation

- **Prayer Chain:**
 - Started May 2015
 - Currently have 19 members
 - 386 prayer requests
 - The prayer chain is currently recruiting new members through the parish bulletin.
 - Social gathering on Saturday, February 22 at 3PM in the annex for all the prayer chain members to meet each other and give new members or those considering joining a chance to learn more.

- **Green Thumb (Darrell Cofsky)**
No report.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Jim Hines

- **Social Ministry General Comments:**
I became the social ministries coordinator in December 2019. Thanks to Dave for his commitment to Social Ministries. Debbie, Dave and I met with Abby the Diocesan Social Ministry on December 10, 2019. We discussed our parishes social ministry, the Diocesan Social Ministry connection with our parish and we took a tour of our church facilities.
- **Haiti Twinning Committee:** The Haiti Twinning Committee is very thankful for all the support from the parish and friends of Haiti in making us possible to reach our pledged support of \$50,000 to the budgets of the primary and secondary schools in Haiti. We raised a total of \$50,414 (includes donations). This represents 43% of total schools support.

Run/Walk with the Son for Haiti 5K - Dec. 7, 2019

- 360 participants (runners and Walkers)
- Total amount raised - \$23,772.74
- Less expenses - \$ 3,654.24
- Net Gain - \$20,118.50

Student Sponsorship Program - Nov. 2019 and Jan. 2020

- Sponsorship Drive in four weekends
- Total raised to date - \$ 30,192.18
- Total students sponsored through Student Sponsorship Program = 242 students (205 primary, 37 secondary)
- No. of sponsors participating in Student Sponsorship Program = 136
- Began offering credit card payments and payment through online giving feature on parish website (34 % of total sponsorship payments)
- Student Sponsorship is open year-round. Please visit the parish website and click on “Give Online”.
- Peninsula Catholic High School continues to partner with us in the Student Sponsorship Program through consciousness/fundraising events during Catholic Schools Week, January 26- February 1, 2020/

Tree Planting - Dec. 7, 2019: Sacred Heart Cathedral in TN donated 2 Ebony and Ivory crepe myrtle trees as a symbol of our solidarity in our twinning partnership with St. Michel Parish of Boucan Carre. Our Green Thumb Ministry coordinated the planting of the tree

- **PORT**

St. Kateri supported PORT on the evening/morning of November 30/December 1 at Temple Baptist Church. Over 60 guests were provided a hot dinner and breakfast and a safe place to sleep. (A few people came in after I was provided the initial check-in count, so the total is approximate). Food was donated by 16 families and 26 volunteers supported check-in, dinner, overnight, check-out, and breakfast. Four of the volunteers also provided food. With a donation from my daughter, miscellaneous items that I did not anticipate were purchased by me. Eileen Leininger (previous PORT contact for St. Kateri) and her son came to assist with dinner preparation and check-in. Dinner was a ham slice with pineapple, broccoli with cheese sauce, roasted potatoes, roll, and mock banana pudding. A few guests did not wish to eat ham. Broccoli was overdone. Breakfast was supposed to be fresh pancakes and sausage. I was told that the kitchen had a grill, but it did not have one suitable for the planned breakfast. Precooked pancakes and sausage were purchased after dinner and served for breakfast. Donated pancake mix, syrup, and sausage were brought to the St. Kateri kitchen. There was a lot of leftovers from both meals.

St. Kateri supported PORT on the evening/overnight of December 12/13 at Sts. Constantin and Helen Church. Initially 45 guests were provided a hot dinner (a total of 66 with late arrivals) and a safe place to sleep. Food was donated by 11 families and 13 volunteers (11 new volunteers who were not at Temple Baptist) supported check-in, dinner, and overnight. Dinner was a ham slice, pineapple, broccoli with cheese sauce, roasted potatoes, roll, apple sauce, homemade donated cookies, and mock banana pudding. Again, a few guests did not wish to eat ham. The representative from the church provided guidance so all food was cooked as desired. Seconds were provided but insufficient food was set aside to provide a hot dinner to the late arrivals. Communications were poor with the contact at the Greek Orthodox Church. I felt that I was going in circles.

For both PORT dates, a total of 22 families provided food and 37 volunteers from St. Kateri provided help with check-in/out, food preparation and serving, and overnight help. At least two volunteers are not members of St. Kateri. They have helped when St. Kateri supported PORT in the past and continue to do so. I sent out emails to the Haiti committee, previous PORT volunteers, and the ministers at the 5:30 Mass. Others helped by emailing the ministers at the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses, the Knights of Columbus, several house churches, and the choir. It was very stressful that parishioners did not volunteer until the last minute. Debbie Gausmann has indicated that she will find someone to take care of recruiting the volunteers.

I am willing to continue to organize the donations and volunteer spots. For both dinner and breakfast preparation, it is vital that there be someone familiar with the menu and food preparation. For PORT 2020-2021, I suggest that St. Kateri support just one evening/morning PORT on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Since some parishioners are not here over Thanksgiving, they can volunteer for any of the three PORT dates supported by St. Vincent de Paul church as I do.

- **Prison Ministry**

KAIROS: We sent one inside minister to Sussex II State Prison for a two-day Instructional on 25-26 Jan 2020. Fifty-one inmates attended and 45 completed the 10-lecture program on Ecclesiastes. Thanks again to St Kateri for the continued support of the prisoner through Kairos.

- **Food Pantry/Thrift Shop** (Elaine Riley)

The Parish Thrift Shop and Food Pantry serves the poor and marginalized in specific zip codes located in Poquoson and York county. We thank the many parishioners who contribute to the Thrift Shop with donations, and who volunteer their time to help sustain our mission. We also thank those who minister at the food pantry by serving there and those who donate food or give monetary contributions which are used to purchase meat, vegetables and non-perishable groceries.

For the fiscal year June – December 2018 the number of individuals served at the Food Pantry:

Time period	Individuals Served at the Food Pantry		
	Ages 65+	Ages 19-64	Ages 0-18
June – December 2018	301	1675	1100
January-June 2019	301	1400	888
Total	602	3075	1988

Total number of individuals: 5065

As you can see the need is great! The Gospel message is clear. If Jesus can show that much love to a **poor** humanity, we can certainly show as much love as possible to the **poor people** that need help, whether it is financially, physically or emotionally. Consider the poor when you shop for your own family and when you come to share the family meal of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

- **Other Ministries**

Ecology

St Paul's Soup Kitchen

St Vincent's

Lackey Free Clinic

Menchville House

(Note that the above five are generally reported on by Debbie Gausmann)

FORMATION: Debbie Gausmann

Faith Formation:

- Adult Faith Formation study on Exodus is now meeting at 7 pm on Mondays
- Divine Mercy group is now meeting at 6:30 PM on Mondays. They have 12-15 people attending each Monday

Youth: Larry Kervella

- Confirmation retreat went well
- Middle school retreat went well. Father Bob did a great job.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Dave Stallard

- Polar Plunge went well this past weekend. (Feb 8). Ricky, Barry, Nate, and Bill from our Knights participated. Raised over \$7500 for Special Olympics
- Fish Fry will be Friday February 28 followed at 7PM by stations of the cross led by the Knights.

ADMINISTRATION/FACILITIES: Lance Solaroli or Lori Yankoski

There will be a meeting Feb 25 to discuss the roof and final review of the Request for proposal

WORSHIP: David Stallard

- Bill LaMarsh was welcomed to the committee. He is replacing Tony Mattox.
- Discussed how the new procedures for the beginning of Mass are going. There are a few refinements to be worked on. However, it appears fewer people are arriving late.
- Arrangements will be made for all the people setting up for Mass to meet with FR Bob in the alcove, February 20th to discuss procedures.
- David Stallard and Tony will update the Holy Week Guidelines book. David Stallard will get with Deacon Phil to review his role in the services.
- David Stallard will coordinate the noon Mass for Ash Wednesday. Bill will take care of the evening Mass.
- FR Bob requested the people taking up collection not move until the Prayers of the Faithful are finished. Mass coordinators will work this.
- FR Bob requested that Bill, Tony, David and David meet to discuss supporting the Holy Week services. David Stallard will arrange the meeting.
- Debbie Gausmann – There are three people in RCIA at this time. No one will be joining the church at the Easter Vigil.
- Lori - The Lenten Theme is “The Call to Sow Justice”. Pocket Rocks will be provided to the community.
- Stations of the cross will be every Friday of Lent (7PM, except on Good Friday which will be at 3PM) Different groups will lead each of the Fridays. Proposed schedule is:
 - Friday Feb 28, 7PM Knights of Columbus
 - Friday March 6, 7PM Liturgy ministers
 - Friday March 13, 7PM 8th and 9th grade
 - Friday March 20, 7PM Social ministry
 - Friday March 27, 7PM Children’s ministry
 - Friday April 3, 7PM Women’s Scripture Study
 - Friday April 10, 3PM That Man Is You - meet outside on the trail

New Business

- **Parish Council Elections**

Barry updated the election procedures. Some discussion ensued about when to meet with interested parishioners to share information about the Parish Council. There was consensus on the added information session and the procedure will be followed starting now.

- An election committee of Barry, Mary, and Kathy was formed.
- The committee will need to put together dates for the information meeting and get out publicity for the parish council elections as soon as possible.
- Parish Council election date will be May 16 and 17
- No absentee ballots will be allowed
- All members of the council should recruit people to run for the council

- **Parish maintenance: roof; heating/cooling**

The parish heating and cooling cannot be re-done without putting in a new system. Nothing will be done at this point.

Pastors Remarks:

None

Action Items:

- All members: recruit people to run for Parish Council
- Election committee: Set up dates for the information meeting and get out publicity/bulletin information to the parish about the parish council election.

- All members: Read Building Tools, chapters 8-12; pages 41-59

Volunteer to lead opening prayer: Larry Kervella

Closing Prayer – Our Father

Adjournment

Next PPC meeting: May 13, 2020 - Rescheduled for July 22, 2020 at church in the alcove

Parish Council Election: May 16/17, 2020 – cancelled – need to reschedule