

Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
November 11, 2020 7PM
Zoom Meeting – Debbie will send out the link (Tuesday or Wednesday)

Members:

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer
Lori Yankoski

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; Jim Hines: Social Justice; Community and New
Evangelization Open

Visitors:

Ray Minek, Bill McDonald, Denis Howorth

Call to Order

Opening Prayer: Jim Hines

Faith Formation: Read Building Tools (chapter 20 - 29).

Debbie led the council through each of the chapters:

- People to focus on – We need to focus on those who are not coming to church (not in the seats). We need to know who the people are not coming. We should be guiding all forward to heaven
- Expense of Church Stuff – The expense of church stuff can turn people off. People want money to go to the poor and to education. We need to get what we need to be able to do our ministry.
- Church People don't belong in pews – We need to be involved, active in ministries, do-ers. But we still do need to be in church to be fed, to worship, learn. Need to make it comfortable for people to join in ministry. It takes one-on-one invitations.
- Greeting Guests – Our greeters are doing a good job welcoming people to the church.
- Remember Money saved on vestments – Having a good sound system. It is getting better.
- Invest in Music – Music needs to be singable and engage the people. We seem to be doing that. The church is (or should be) the choir. It's not the choir giving a show.
- Nobody is growing in Christ just because of your procession of one – Individuals should not be the center of attention. Move with a purpose. Instructions are available to lectors and Eucharistic ministers to allow for things to move smoothly
- Managing the Transition – Flow from one part of mass to the next. Smooth transition. The offertory should not be a bathroom break. It is distracting for others. With the pandemic (and not having offertory), makes the mass go smoother, but the donations are also down without it. The offertory is more than money – it is presenting our gifts to God.
- 3 Essential Steps to take people on Spiritual Journey:
 - Invitation: inviting, welcoming
 - Transportation: Eucharist, Music (for those who don't fully understand Eucharist)
 - Destination: All go to heaven
- What Season are you in – What impacts the parish? Military transitions, school schedules – for example don't have youth retreats in the fall (conflicts with football) – it's better in winter. We need to find a way to move being involved in church from the last position in people's lives up higher on their list of things to do. When one is involved, they are active. Encourage people to Come Home. To encourage them to come home, we need to know why they left. News/Media gives bad press and may influence some to stay away.

**Review/Approval of October Minutes – Minutes approved with correction
Committee Reports:**

New Evangelization: Open

No updates. Youth religious education are studying social justice this year.

Community: Open

- **House Churches: (Sheila)**

Two of our house churches are meeting monthly via Zoom. HC Valmoore and Westover meets the first Wednesday, and Woodlake Crossing/Coventry/Running Man meets the second Saturday.

- **Green Thumb: (Darrell Cofsky)**

The second “Ebony and Ivory crepe Myrtle tree that our sister church gifted us has been purchased and now that it is cool, we can plant it. It will go at the opposite end of the large bed adjacent to the sidewalk that leads to the office entrance.

- **Prayer Chain:**

We just keep on praying.

- **Calling Elderly in our Parish: (Lynn Kenneally)**

No new updates.

- **Meet & Greet: (Mary Egan)**

Mary is looking into finding a way to still have a Meet and Greet for new members. She may call new members and welcome them individually. We are getting new people attending – that may be due to the pandemic and the limited times of masses. To aid in identifying new members, the parish registration may be put online.

- **Parish Social Gatherings; Receptions; Sunday Coffee**

These are suspended until further notice

Social Justice: Jim Hines:

Attended dioceses social ministry and prison ministries Virtual meetings.

- **PORT:**

Ray report the following activities for PORT:

Attended food safety and kitchen familiarization at Temple Baptist Church. Prepared a menu based on meat availability from the Food Bank. Set up "signup.com" spots to track needed food donations and volunteer positions. Announcements for signing up to donate or volunteer on-screen before the broadcast of Sunday Mass and from the ambo at the end of Mass.

Sent out electronically:

If you have already signed up to help with PORT, thank you. Kindly disregard this email. I am sending it to as many groups as I can so please forgive multiple requests.

Please help feed the homeless through PORT. We need help more than ever this year and appreciate our volunteers' help so much. We need food donations to be brought to the church kitchen by the end of the 11am Sunday Mass on 11/22. We also need volunteers to prepare the dinner and assemble breakfast bags and volunteers to serve dinner on Saturday afternoon, 11/28. If you are considering volunteering to cook or serve, details following the sign-up directions.

As was the case last year, we are using signup.com to track donations/volunteers. Please follow these steps to sign up:

1. Click this link: signup.com/go/wuLGNXR
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on signUp.com)
3. Choose your spots - SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders.

SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you have any questions or prefer not to use your email address, please contact Ray Mineck at remineck@gmail.com and he can sign you up manually.

The Food Bank cannot provide beef for beef stew, so the menu has changed. I have arranged for boneless chicken thighs. Boneless chicken thighs should be easier to cut with the plastic utensils provided by PORT. Dinner will be prepared and served to the guests at Temple Baptist Church on Harpersville Road in Newport News. Linda and I plan to get the food donations from St. Kateri the morning of 11/28 and cut the vegetables at our home. I broke my collar bone, and my arm is in a sling. If this is still the case on 11/28, we will need two additional volunteers to cut up the vegetables that morning. We cannot use the St. Kateri kitchen.

The food will be brought to Temple Baptist at 1:30 and dinner must be ready by 4:00. The only people in the kitchen will be those preparing the meal and packing the breakfast bags. I believe that we can space ourselves around the kitchen to maintain social distancing. Those serving will place the dinner in clamshell containers with three partitions using a social distanced assembly line. The dinners in the clamshell containers will be brought out to the guests by a PORT representative, isolating us from others. There will be no contact with the guests or the PORT representatives checking in the guests.

To keep volunteers safe from the virus, each morning, the kitchen will be fogged. A representative from Temple Baptist will be on site for kitchen questions. Masks are mandatory.

- **Haiti:** Haiti Twinning Ministry Update November 2020

Our two fundraising events --virtual 5K and Student Sponsorship Drive --are on the calendar. St. Michel needs your continued support to keep the parish schools in operation and provide continuity to the education of the students. At a joint budget meeting this summer, our Haiti Committee pledged to raise and contribute \$25K to the school budgets. It's fifty percent less of our support through the years, but our Haiti Committee felt that we needed to give St. Michel a realistic amount considering the many challenges brought on by the Covid pandemic. This is coming at a time when the cost of living in Haiti has greatly increased.

- **2020 Run/Walk With the Son for Haiti 5K**

This year's race is virtual and can be completed between Nov 21 and Dec 6. Participants can walk/run anywhere and anytime between these two dates. Awards given to top runners and walkers. Registration and information at raceentry.com or stkaterirun.com If not running or walking you can always make a donation or purchase raffle tickets.

We are offering two raffles:

- "Special Condo Raffle" - Outer Banks condo for 3 nights, sleeps 10 (April, May, Sept.-Dec)
- "Mystery Raffle" - baskets and gift cards valued at \$25+

Raffle tickets may be purchased from the parish website:

<https://stkateri.weshareonline.org/>

There is a separate button for each raffle.

- **Student Sponsorship Program**

We will be mailing out postcards regarding the sponsorship drive after Thanksgiving. The drive will be from Dec. 6, 2020 - Jan 11, 2021. We will not have photos this year. Payments can be made online through the parish website by clicking on "Give Online".

<https://stkateri.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/HaitiStudentSponsorships>

Payments by check can be made by downloading the Student Sponsorship form from the website: <https://stkateri.cc/student-sponsorship>

- **Mission Report, Sept. 19-24**

Judy Townsend joined the team from Sacred Heart. First U.S. visit in two years.

The new pastor for St. Michel is Fr. Michelet Lamarre (Nov. 2019)

- **Education** - Both primary and secondary schools were finishing the Spring Term 2019-2020. Ninth grade and Baccalaureate exams scheduled for end of October. New school year starts in November. Enrollment at the primary school is stable with just under 900 students, while the high school is about 210, down a bit from the last few years. A goal for both schools was the desire to obtain internet service. Broadband access is not possible so it's a matter of working on initial and ongoing costs.
- **Bouly Clinic** - The medical team found the clinic to be in good shape. We still have the same doctor and nurse when the clinic opened three years ago. The main challenge in the community of Bouly is water. Water had been piped from a mountain spring to two cisterns: one at the clinic and one at the school. The pipes to the school cistern have collapsed, leaving the clinic cistern, which has its own issue with leaks, as the only source.
- **Church Facility** - The current facility was built in 1948 and is experiencing gradual erosion of its walls and foundation which were built without rebar. Fr. Lamarre's wish is to have a new church building for the 75th anniversary in 2023. Sacred Heart TN will approach St. Anselm Parish in St. Louis, MO for help with this project. St. Anselm has helped with many construction projects in St. Michel such as the original primary school and extension, sister's house, new high school, and the new rectory.
- **Sister's House** - Also in need of much repair.
- A **video summary of the September mission trip** was created by Sonya Mire, Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Knoxville, TN. Here is the link:
<https://vimeo.com/474460141>
"Men anpil chay pa lou" (Many hands make light load)
"Bondye beni ou" (God bless you)

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

This year the food pantry is collecting SMALL turkeys, roasts, hams, and thanksgiving fixings to give out for Thanksgiving dinners. They are not having a one-day distribution this year; it will be ongoing during regular business hours. Drop off is Monday-Friday from 10 am -2 pm in the back donation area of the Thrift Shop. The need is especially great this year, so please help if you are able.

- **Ecology:** Pete sent several ecology emails to the ecology committee.
- **St Vincent's-** Delivered undergarments to the St. Vincent's close closet.
- **Lackey Free Clinic** - Monetary donation made quarterly
- **Menchville House-** Monetary donation made quarterly
- **Prison Ministry:**

Dave Kennelly and Jim Hines attended a Kairos team prayer and share October 24th

Formation: Debbie Gausmann

- Children's programs are at home. Church is providing materials and seasonal projects such as making rosaries, saints booklet, Salvation army stockings, and advent wreaths, and advent calendar.
- Sacramental programs are also going well, but a recent child with Covid has moved the programs to being home based for now.
- **Adult Faith Formation:**
 - That Man Is You is doing well and is continuing on Zoom
 - Monday night group of 22 is studying the prophets
 - Women's Scripture study group continues to meet every other Wednesday
 - For Advent, the parish is encouraging groups to meet (Zoom) and use Breaking Open the Word once a week to study the Sunday readings.
 - Formed Program – anyone can go on to the web site and get any of the talks
 - Woman's Program similar to That Man is You

Youth: Larry Kervella

- Focusing on Catholic Social Teachings. They are getting involved and having good discussions. They meet once a month and do a service project separately each month.

Knights of Columbus: Dave Stallard

- Had a 4th degree celebration
- Trunk or Treat worked out well. Youth ministry helped with games and traffic. This was a good parish activity. Went from 6PM to 8PM and had a bonfire – great time.
- Fishing trip raffle to raise funds for the scholarship fund. They will sell 100 tickets at \$10 a ticket. Bob Rumbaugh is offering the use of his boat.

Administration/Facilities: Lance Solaroli or Lori Yankoski

We are in waiting mode: waiting for a quote for the base flashing and waiting to hear when the company will begin the roof repairs. Also want to get a quote on caulking. It may start mid-November, but Lance will follow-up on this.

Worship: David Stallard

- Will start decorating for Advent the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.
- We are still trying to get 11 AM ushers and lectors so we can return to our three masses. It is anticipating that the 8:30 AM mass will return in January.
- Music will have more cantors for Advent and January. We will also have more singing at the mass during Advent, but not by the congregation.
- Some of our music will change. David Haas, a composer of many of our liturgical music, has been implicated in 40+ years of sexual abuse and rape of women and young teens. Therefore, our parish will stop using his music as many other fellow choir directors have done throughout the country. Please see the report following the minutes.
- As a reminder the theme for Advent is: ...Waiting in hopeful anticipation. Parishioners will be encouraged to submit one word indicating what they are hopefully anticipating.
- There will be three Christmas Masses: 5PM and 8PM Christmas Eve and 10AM Christmas day. There will be no special family mass. We are hoping to live stream all three masses. To attend a Christmas mass, you will need to register for a mass and check in at the door. No more than 150 will be allowed at any mass.

On Going Business:

- **Original Vision/Mission Statement**

Vision Statement:

We worship, learn and serve in community following Jesus Christ who is our source and summit.

Mission Statement: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Roman Catholic Church

In following Jesus Christ who is our source and summit, the mission of the St. Kateri Tekakwitha community is to worship, learn, and serve through:

- Full, active and conscious participation in the Mass which empowers our ministry and activity
- Active and engaging formation programs for all ages
- Recognizing and serving Christ in individuals according to their needs
- Actively pursuing service opportunities to expand our reach and impact and through promoting a welcoming community that meets the needs of a dynamic people of God.

Mary, Darlene, and Nate met to discuss the Vision and Mission statement and came up with some suggestions:

- **Updated Vision/Mission Statement**

Vision Statement:

As a parish, we worship, learn and serve our community following Jesus Christ, who is our source and summit.

Rational: Give direct ownership to each member of the parish and therefore turn our action toward the parish and greater community.

Mission Statement:

The mission of St Kateri Tekakwitha Parish is to worship, learn and serve our community as follows: participate in the Mass, which empowers our ministry and activity; engage in formation programs available for all ages; recognize Christ in all individuals, and serve them according to their needs; pursue service opportunities to expand our footprint; and promote a welcoming parish that meets the needs of a dynamic people of God.

Rational: Create a concise, easy to read statement.

- Suggestions:
 - Place the two statements together in the bulletin.
 - If possible, put mission statement in bullet format, and if not bold the action verbs.
 - Frequently read the vision statement & follow up on another Sunday with the mission statement. The Cantor or Lector would read them. We suggest Claudia would ensure it happens a few times a year.
 - Pastor, Staff, Council and Ministry Leaders refer to the statements from time to time, so Parish sees the statements in action.
- **Safety & Security (Rick Gausmann)**
 - Denis and I attended a 3-day "Faith- Based Preparedness Workshop" via zoo on Oct 20-22. Hosted by Virginia Fusion Center - They fuse together counterterrorism and criminal intelligence sources to better help defend the Commonwealth through timely notification and reaction.
 - Some good suggestions we want to look at ("stop bleed packs"; easy access, visible first aid items, greeter duties, etc.) but it was a firehose of information.
 - The plan is to put together a small committee focusing on safety and security awareness. WE want to emphasize that this is not a Parish Council issue but will probably report back to the Council periodically. Goal is to start putting committee together after the first of the year. Have already talked to one individual with a law enforcement background. We want to balance being a **welcoming** community vs. being a safety-conscious community.
 - An information flyer follows the minutes.
- **Social Justice/Back Door Ministry/Community Outreach**
 - Father wants to our parish more active in helping those in need. We are looking to get our parish involved in a coordinated effort of local churches in the area to meet the needs of the people
 - Our parish would set up and Outreach fund/program for people who slip through the cracks or need immediate help. We would start out small and hopefully grow. No money would go to an individual, but would be paid directly to where it is needed (to the landlord, utility, gas, etc.)
 - We would need volunteers to help set up the program, handle screening, and phone calls. Lori would handle money. We would work with other parishes to offer a coordinated program.
 - We currently have some gift cards available to provide groceries for people in need.

Pastors Remarks

With the return of 3 masses, Deacon Phil will return to his original schedule of assisting at only mass/month and giving the homily at all masses on the third Sunday.

Action Items:

Read and reflect on the Mission/Vision suggestions

Read Building Tools Chapters 30 – 41 for Faith Formation

Opening prayer at next meeting: Kathy Stocchetti

Next PPC meeting: January 13, 2021; 7PM; Zoom

Closing Prayer – Our Father

Adjourn



VFC SHIELD

Awareness Through Information Sharing



VFC SHIELD was established to increase community awareness of criminal and terrorism trends and incidents within the Commonwealth, United States and across the world. Information sharing increases preparedness, mitigation and prevention efforts and makes our communities safer.

Realtime Alerts



Alerts are timely SMS based notifications of a significant security or terrorism related event within United States. There are often multiple messages for each incident, as information becomes available and situations evolve.

Sector-Specific Bulletins



TARGETED EMAIL LISTS

Sector Specific Bulletins include security trends, threat environment or mitigation information specific to a member sector. If you sign up for this product, you will receive sector specific information based on the category you indicated during registration.

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