

Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
January 13, 2021 7PM
Zoom Meeting

Members:

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer
Lori Yankoski

Parish Council Representatives:

Kathy Stocchetti, Rick Sowell, Barry Yachem, Lance Solaroli, Mary Egan, Rick Gausmann

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

Absent:

Parish Council Representatives:

Nate Garn, Melissa Madrigal, Darlene Heinz
Young Adult Rep: position open

Visitors:

Ray Minek, Tom Marrah, Denis Howorth

Call to Order

Opening Prayer: Kathy Stocchetti

Faith Formation: Read Building Tools (chapter 30 - 41).

- Chapter 30: Communication. When we “communicate” we are not always on the same page, and so don’t understand each other. The methods we are using to communicate are:
 - Flocknotes
 - Announcements at Mass and the notes before Mass (for those online)
 - Sending the bulletin to those who have requested it.
 - Facebook/Website

We need as many ways as possible to reach our people.

- Sacramental Tools: This was about the “in the background things” that should take place before the sacrament. How are families engaged? It helps having committed families.
 - Baptism: Parents are given website access to Ascension for Baptism preparation. Once they complete the preparation, they print out a certificate which they give to Debbie and then they meet with Debbie to set up the date for the Baptism.
 - Children and Youth sacramental Prep: Student sacramental preparation must be outside the regular religious education classes. Parents take sacramental preparation as well – just for the parents. This is done with videos. For the Confirmation groups, the Junior youth group builds the Senior youth group. Parents are participating in their faith formation. Many of the teens participate in the summer programs. For the Senior youth to be on the teams, they need to be in current faith formation classes. Confirmation at St. Kateri is done in 10th grade.
 - Funerals: Funerals are planned with the family (music, readings, whether to have a mass or a service). For a Catholic funeral, the remains should be buried in a cemetery or a columbarium. Our Diocese is not currently building more columbariums since they are trying to support the Catholic cemeteries.
 - Faith formation is critical for adults and children.

Review/Approval of November Minutes – minutes approved.

Committee Reports:

New Evangelization: Open

No report

Community: Open

- **House Churches: (Sheila)**
 - Valmoore & Westover continue to meet socially via Zoom and are looking into finding a study for future meetings.
 - Grafton tried meeting for Breaking open the Word for Advent, but only had 4 people attend. They would like to do something to help keep them connected.
 - Woodlake/Coventry/Running Man has been doing Breaking open the Word since just before Advent (took off for Christmas and New Year) and we started it back up again. We get about 10 people each time. We are also continuing our normal House Church meeting on the second Saturday of the month via Zoom. This month we will discuss options for the faith formation for the year.
- **Green Thumb: (Darrell Cofsky)**

Nothing to report.
- **Prayer Chain:**

The prayer chain has prayed for 514 people in less than 6 years, and we have had 10 requests in this new year already. We have added two more ministers to the prayer chain giving us a total of 21 people praying for others.
- **Calling Elderly in our Parish: (Lynn Kenneally)**

Still making calls to those that need a check in. Cards have been sent to those we couldn't reach.
- **Meet & Greet: (Mary Egan)**

Nothing to report.
- **Parish Social Gatherings; Receptions; Sunday Coffee**

These are suspended until further notice.

Social Justice: Jim Hines:

Traveled to OLMC with Tom Marrah to find out how they do their outreach ministry in the hope of establishing a St Kateri Outreach

- **PORT:**
 - PORT coordinators requested food be prepared for 150 guests. I set up for donations and volunteers for 100 and volunteers to prepare and serve dinner. St. Kateri fed 25 guests on November 28. A meal of breaded, baked boneless chicken breasts and a medley of potatoes, carrots, celery, and onions was prepared. Coffee, iced tea, and water were provided. Dessert was home-made brownies. To protect the health of parishioners helping to prepare food only one person was asked to help prepare to maximize social distancing. Leftover food from dinner was left at Temple Baptist Church for the "leftover dinner" the following week.
 - The kitchen representative from Temple Baptist Church insisted on changing the serving process that I set up. Three parishioners dropping off food were asked to help. I protested to the PORT coordinator that this was not consistent with recommendations for social distancing.
 - Based on the recent attendance, 50 grab and go breakfast bags were prepared. Parishioners provided home-made muffins, breakfast bars, granola bars, bananas, and juice boxes. The surplus was left at the St. Kateri kitchen.
 - St. Kateri has volunteered to support PORT on Feb. 28. Parish youth will prepare the grab and go breakfasts in the St. Kateri kitchen. Volunteers will prepare a turkey dinner and bring it to Temple Baptist for heating and serving. A new "sign-up" will be prepared,

and a bulletin/Mass announcement submitted. The PORT attendance will be monitored, and a better estimate of the food needed will be used in the "sign-up". Attendance is currently just under 50 guests.

- None of the funds donated by parishioners for purchasing food and supplies have been used. This cash will go into the church's reserved fund and a request for funds for next year will need to be made to the financial council.
- Having the "cash" available for last minute needs or donated items that failed to appear makes coordinating PORT less stressful for me. A request for funds will need to be made to be included in the budget for next year.

- **Haiti:**

We are happy to report that we have met and surpassed our fundraising goal for FY2021. At a joint HOP meeting with Sacred Heart Cathedral, TN, our Haiti Committee decided to cut our fundraising commitment to school support by half, from \$50,000 to \$25,000. There was so much uncertainty brought on by the Covid pandemic and we had to modify our long successful strategies with the 5K and the student sponsorship program. Our 5K became virtual; and the student sponsorship drive turned to mail-in solicitation and online payments. We thank everyone for their support. Please visit the Haiti page on the parish website for updates.

Amount raised, Jan. 6, 2021

Virtual 5K -	\$12,368.79	(62% of last year's proceeds)
Student Sponsorship Program -	\$24,279.00	(80% of last year's proceeds)
Donations, Memorials -	\$ 352.53	
Total -	\$40,000.32	(60 % over goal)

- **Food Pantry/Thrift Shop (Elaine Riley):** No report

- **Ecology:** (Pete Egan)

Since the beginning of December to the 5th of January the following activities were conducted for the Ecology Ministry Members.

- Sent emails to group on 2 articles on climate change, 2 articles on alternative energy (wind & hydrogen) and 1 on Monarch butterflies being listed as an endangered species and 1 on products labeled biodegradable.
- Emails were sent to group one on a webinar sponsored by Georgetown University on Faithful Priorities for the New Administration and one hosted by Catholic Climate Covenant & USCCB on the book launch for: Ecumenical and Interreligious Guidebook: Care for our Common Home. Finally, information on a webinar hosted by Virginia Interfaith Power and Light.

- **Prison Ministry:** (Jim Hines)

There was a prison ministry workshop focused on women. There are more women in jail than in prison. Kairos is still on hold. Follow-up with the men is done via snail mail.

Formation: Debbie Gausmann

Faith formation was discussed in the Parish Council faith formation portion of this report.

Youth: Larry Kervella

We have 17 youth for the confirmation retreat. The retreat cannot do overnight, so it will meet on a Friday night, and then all day the following Saturday. The retreat appears to be in good shape at this point.

Knights of Columbus: (Rick Sowell)

- **COVAR:** Jim raised over \$1500 for COVAR. Will continue to try to raise more by setting up in front of Boxes Plus.

- Knights will again sponsor a student scholarship and they are currently looking for nominees. They have raised almost \$600 for the scholarship.
- Quarterly state meeting is coming up.
- Starting local council officer nominations
- Extending free online to end of year.
- Christmas card sale went well, sold 2/3 of what they ordered. Thanks to Rick for selling cards from Boxes Plus.

Administration/Facilities: Lance Solaroli or Lori Yankoski

- Choir: Still not able to have congregation singing in mass but will continue with cantors at each mass. Will rehearse on Thursday nights. Instead of using paper, Lori wants to move the cantors to have a tablet for the music. They are currently looking into what kind can be used that will handle the music links.
- Roof: Still waiting to get started on the roof – now looking at the end of January. There was a delay in getting the supplies needed. Still trying to get caulking companies to come out and give estimates. We currently have \$90K in the building refurbishment fund, so should have enough to cover the roof costs.
- Security system is still being considered for the church.

Worship: David Stallard

There was a meeting in December focused on preparing for advent, Christmas, and liturgy and setting up the ministries for the masses and getting the 8:30 AM mass back. The Parish Council congratulates Fr. Bob and the Liturgy Committee for an awesome job of providing smooth, seamless Masses during Advent and Christmas. We also totally support and acknowledge their superb efforts in restarting the 8:30 Mass. Great job!

On Going Business:

- **Vision/Mission Statement**

- The Vision update was compared with the original. Some discussion ensued as to who the vision is for – it is for the parish. The proposed Vision update was approved.

Vision Statement:

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

- The Mission statement was then compared with the original and some of the original wording is preferred. The format using bullets is preferred but may not be implemented in the bulletin due to space issues. The Mission statement has been tabled until February and will be discussed again with updates.

- **Elections:** Due to the pandemic we will have a Modified Parish Council Election this year. The following is proposed:

- Feb – Each elected member nominates at least two parishioners for the Council.
- Mar – Slate of recommended parishioners compiled. Members justify nominations.
- Apr – Members vote, and nominees are rank ordered. Fr. Bob approves selections. Chairman will contact those selected to see if they are willing to serve. (If not, next one on the list will be approved and contacted).
- May – Newly selected Council members will meet with panel chaired by Vice Chairman to go through “Called to Serve” and answer any questions.
- Jun – Fr. Bob officially appoints new Council members.

Notes:

- Nominees should be “Catholics in Good Standing” and active in at least one ministry.

- Do not contact Parishioners regarding their willingness to serve until after we have voted on and Fr. Bob has approved the slate. We do not want any hurt feelings if they are not picked.
- **Emergency Assistance:** Proposed St. Kateri Emergency Assistance/Outreach
 - St. Kateri was founded on social justice. This is intended to help those in need who have exhausted all other options. Most parishes have an emergency fund. We do not.
 - It is not meant to replace the Thrift Store or the Food Pantry. They are entities on their own. We will continue to collect food weekly for the Food Pantry and to encourage parishioners to volunteer.
 - We do not have a parish appointed liaison on the Thrift Store Board of Directors and thus no accountability to our parishioners.
 - This is not meant to be a complex, time consuming operation. We should start out small, simple, and easily duplicatable. We should be able to run an “emergency fund” program with a few volunteers dedicating a few hours per week with fiscal oversight by the St. Kateri Financial Manager.
 - This is still being looked at and researched. Want to be able to help with an emergency fund. Need to know who falls between the cracks of what is currently offered. We just want to be one more place to give help.

Pastors Remarks

Nothing additional to add.

Action Items

- **Read Building Tools Chapters 42-51**
- **Each elected council member should nominate two parishioners for parish council. Send your nominations to Rick Gausmann before February 10.**
- **Mission statement update (Mary, Nate, and Darlene)**

Opening prayer at next meeting: Debra Gausmann

Next PPC meeting: February 10, 2021; 7PM; Zoom

Closing Prayer – Our Father

Adjourn