

Minutes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
February 10, 2021 7PM
Zoom Meeting

Members:

ExOfficio Member:

Father Bob Spencer
Lori Yankoski

Parish Council Representatives:

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

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:

Rick Sowell
Young Adult Rep: position open

Staff: Denis Howorth

Call to Order

Opening Prayer: Debra Gausmann

Faith Formation: Read Building Tools (chapter 42 - 51).

The topic for discussion from these chapters are money tools, how do we raise funds and do it effectively? Some types of ways to raise money: Fundraisers, Second collections, Poor boxes, and tithing.

- Second Collections: Tends to be for short term. People give what they have with them/in their pockets. It doesn't develop the maturity of the giver. Doesn't do well due to apathy or people don't have the money at that time. If it is done online, there are more options available to make the donation. One tends to give the way they spend (online, checks, credit cards, cash). Flock notes could be used to remind people about 2nd collections and what the collection is for (what the money goes to – not just the name but how it helps).
- Tithing.
 - Do we know how to ask for money? If we do it well, we should only need to do it once a year. One parish used visual aids to show where the money goes – used 100 pennies and counted out what part of each dollar went where. We used to have a commitment card – that way each person would know how much they said they'd give each week, and they could/would budget for that. We could go back to have a commitment card to commit out money, and what we'd do for the parish (time and talent). Originally our parish encouraged all to give 5% to the parish and the other 5% (hence a total of a tithe, a tenth) to other charities or second collections that you wanted to support. Online giving allows our parish to give more consistently. Are we effective in our approach to get funds? If we have a commitment Sunday, we should be clear about why we need money and get input from the Finance committee
 - Other Considerations to reflect on: God owns everything, and we are His stewards. This can be used to follow through on stewardship – to give back to God. Mission/Vision – Does our money follow our mission and vision? How to ask? (Do we give out of guilt? Do we give to support the parish? Do we give for God?)
 - Diocese support. We give the diocese about 10% and we give to support the Catholic schools. It might be useful to use a graphic (pie chart) to show people where the funds go. The annual report is posted yearly (but not with graphics).

Review/Approval of January 2021 Minutes – minutes were approved

Committee Reports:

New Evangelization:

Nothing new to report

Community: Open

- **House Churches: (Sheila)**

House Churches Woodlake Crossing/Coventry/Running Man and Valmoore/Westover are continuing to meet via Zoom. Numbers are decreasing.

Social Justice: Jim Hines:

- **PORT:**

St. Kateri will provide dinner and a "to go" breakfast for PORT on Sunday, February 28. About 35 guests are expected based on current attendance. Meals will be prepared for 48 guests. Dinner will consist of a salad, rolls, roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, and a dessert.

A "signup.com" site has been set up for parishioners to sign up to donate food and supplies and to volunteer to cook, heat, and serve the dinner. The signup takes into account the excess food from the first PORT in November.

On-line announcements will appear before the 11am Mass on the weekends of Feb. 6/7 and Feb. 13/14. Ambo announcements are scheduled for all Masses those weekends. The bulletin will have directions for signing up to donate and/or volunteer.

Debbie Gausmann will work with the parish youth to prepare the "to go" breakfast bags on Saturday, Feb. 27 and arrange to have them delivered to Temple Baptist Church before 3pm the following day.

- **Haiti:**

We are so thankful for the generous support of parishioners and Haiti friends and sponsors. Our fundraisers raised \$40K, 60% over our goal of \$25K.

Our Haiti committee continues to meet on their Wednesday of each month through Zoom. If interested in joining the committee, please contact Bill McDonald at: mcdonalw4857@gmail.com

- **Ecology: (Pete Egan)**

The past month I sent emails to the group, two articles on electric cars and one on hydrogen power. Also sent webinar links to

- Georgetown for two different programs on Social Justice Faithful Priorities with the new administration the second a dialogue with panelist
- Catholic Climate Covenant for two different programs A Laudato Si Focus on the Environment and launch of an Ecumenical and Interreligious Guidebook
- USCCB a Care for Creation Ecumenical dialogue Bishop, Rabbi, and Imam
- Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy on Clean energy and Water
- Environmental Defense Fund for a program A New Day for Climate Action and Union of Concerned Scientists on Gaining Trust for Science
- Sierra Club legislative advocacy

- **Prison: (Jim Hines)**

The people working on prison ministry continue to meet. There is current legislation that states that pregnant inmates cannot be shackled.

Formation: Debbie Gausmann

- Religious Ed: Currently have three groups meeting: Bible study on Revelations (Monday nights), Women's Bible study (letters from St. Paul – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays), and That Man Is You (Saturdays)
- Parents are working with their children for Pk-5. The parish is sending them activity packets for lent and will send more for Easter. This seems to be going well.
- Junior and Senior youth groups are studying Social Justice formation.
- RCIA – no one at this point, but there is one confirmation candidate.
- Breaking open the Word has two groups meeting. One on Thursday evenings and the other on Sunday mornings.
- The parish now has a subscription to formed.org Just sign in and one has access to everything.
- The parish is looking into Robert Barron's engaged (formation program) that goes through flock notes. Notices of information and evangelization programs will be sent out.

Youth: Larry Kervella

Had Confirmation Retreat on Friday night and Saturday (Feb 5 & 6). 8 Confirmation Candidates, 9 youth leaders, 4 young adult leaders (2 virtual), and 5 adult leaders (that be the old folks) there. Think it went really well. In fact, almost all Confirmation Candidates want to be part of team next year. Though not a full weekend, I think we achieved what we needed spiritually and inspirationally for each of them. There are two more sessions left until confirmation. We have 11 candidates due to receive confirmation on March 24, 2021 at 7PM at our parish with the Bishop.

Knights of Columbus: Dave Stallard

The knights of Columbus will be leading the Lenten Friday Rosary and Stations of the Cross

Administration/Facilities: Lance Solaroli or Lori Yankoski

- Nothing has been started yet. The roof work should start now in March. A security system and caulking for the church are still be looked at and we are awaiting quotes.
- Choir: Tablets have been ordered. There are currently 3 cantors that will rotate the weekend masses.

Worship: David Stallard

- The Lenten theme is “Lord Bring Us Together In Perfect Harmony”
- FR Bob discussed with the group the meaning of the Lenten theme and what the focus should be for Lent.
- Lent begins February 17th. There will be noon and 7PM Masses. David Stallard will coordinate the noon Mass. Bill LaMarsh will coordinate the 7 PM Mass. Deacon Phil will be at the 7 PM Mass.
- Procedures for Holy Week will be discussed at the March Meeting. We are waiting on guidance from the diocese.
- Confirmation for 11 candidates will be Wednesday, March 24th. The Bishop will be here. We will be providing ushers and doing the Mass setup.
- Debbie brought up that the Knights will be leading the Rosary and Stations of the Cross each of the Fridays during Lent.
- FR Bob will be hearing confessions all Saturdays during Lent from 4 ‘til 4:30.

On Going Business:

- **Vision/Mission Statement**

Submitted to February Parish Council Meeting for review with new first bullet:

The mission of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish is to worship, learn and serve our community as follows:

- Participate fully, actively and consciously in the Mass asking God to empower 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.

Submitted to January Parish Council Meeting for review:

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.

Original Mission Statement under review:

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.

After some discussion, a **final Mission Statement** was approved:

The mission of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish is to worship, learn and serve our community as follows:

- Participate fully, actively and consciously in the Mass;
- Pray for grace to empower our ministry, activity and our daily lives;
- 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.

- **Election**

The council will review a slate of names for parish council and will discuss further action at the March meeting.

- **Emergency Assistance Fund Report:** Tom Marrah

This will become part of the Social Justice committee and further reports will be included in that portion of the minutes.

- The purpose of the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha –Emergency Assistance Fund (SKT-EAF) is to provide emergency financial assistance to those who have exhausted other options. Those being assisted will only be from York County, Poquoson, or parishioners of SKT. Though Social Justice is often associated with those in poverty, there are different levels of poverty: Situational, Generational and Systemic. The SKT-EAF will serve those who

find themselves in temporary situations without the necessary resources needed to meet their basic immediate needs.

- Clients may receive assistance for situations such as: Utilities, Housing, Transportation, Health, or other matters. No money will be given directly to the client. Clients needing food will be referred to one of the area food pantries. The SKT-EF will need to determine how much assistance will be provided and how often. (i.e.: \$250-\$300 a year/client)
- Information is being gathered from other Catholic Parishes in the area:
Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Newport News: Large Program that has distributed up to \$150,000 per year. Saint Joan of Arc in Yorktown has a smaller program that has distributed up to \$50,000 per year. Both are a line-item parish budget item.
- There are 20+ York County organizations: county, non-profit and church affiliated that serve those in need in the area. Collaboration with them will be necessary to collectively meet needs that exceed the capability of any one organization.
- Lori Yankowski and I have not been able to meet to determine what documentation she would need for check requests and periodic EAF reports. Both Lori and Nan of StJofA suggested that the Diocese may have requirements for risk mitigation.
- I have also talked with Thrive Peninsula in Newport News, who said their clients are required to participate in a Financial Coaching as a requirement for getting assistance. They have partnerships with 80+ area churches for which they provide direct assistance to the clients for those churches.
- Everyone we have spoken to has given us the name of the Bargain Box in Yorktown, it is a thrift store, about the size of the Parish Thrift Store, operated by the York County Volunteer Association, a 501(c)3. It is highly regarded. Deb also mentioned the Bargain Box as a source that always seems to have money.

Pastors Remarks:

Nothing to add

Action Items:

Read Building Tools chapters 52-63

Opening prayer at next meeting: Mary Egan

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

Closing Prayer – Our Father

Adjourn