

Pastoral Council Minutes: August 14, 2017

Members Present: Msgr. R. Morris, B. Langley, C. Creamer, S. Helton, K. Bentley, AM Hoobin, J. Hlavacka, M. Ustick, A.M. Hoobin, B. Atherton

Absent: T. Goodrich

Religious Clergy, Nuns and Laity Present: J. Marino, K. Beatty

7:00 p.m. Prayer by Msgr. Morris

Minutes from the June Meeting were read and corrected. Motion to approve was passed.

Introduction & Welcome of New Staff Members:

Sherri Briand has accepted the staff position of Director of Discipleship and Youth Ministry and Chris Pelletier is now Communications and IT Coordinator for the Parish. Sherri initiated recruiting feedback from parents of high school students in an effort to gather ideas for faith formation strategies that will ensure this age group remains connected to a faith community through their transition to adulthood.

Old Business:

Parish Pastoral Plan: Next Steps

Monsignor Morris recounted that the Council **outlined goals** for the next year to include working on

- Forming Intentional Discipleship within the Parish, facilitating parishioners need to belong to a faith community, and inviting them to share their stories. Sherri Briand will be lead facilitator in the area of discipleship.
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- Father Jack and Deacon Joe are investigating ways for Parishioners to be more dynamically connected to their faith community. Monsignor Morris noted that Social Media plays a large part in keeping people, especially the youth of the parish, involved and engaged in the church. He requested that Chris Pelletier focus on designing and maintaining the Parish Face Book, Instagram, & Twitter accounts, and the Parish website. Attention to Safe Environment practices relative to ensuring responsible use of personal information on these media outlets will be established.
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- Sherri Briand will also be responsible for assisting Parishioners share their personal relationships with their faith with St. Catherine's faith community.

Siena House

- A power-point presentation on Siena House was presented to the Parish at all Masses. An Open-house opportunity for Parishioners to become familiar with Siena House brought over 200 people to view the house, in spite of the inclement weather. Impressions from those who visited were very positive. Monsignor shared that he was touched by the number of people who struggle through life due to a number of challenges and who wanted to help with the Siena ministry.
- Monsignor explained that all of the properties of the Diocese are registered in the name of Bishop Parkes. Secondary to ensuring safety at the Siena House, Monsignor requested that the City Commission grant No Trespassing ordinances for the property.
- Sister Rosamunda has facilitated two Encuentro prayer meetings, both in Spanish and in English, that were attended by the Siena House community. The number of people attending these prayer meetings is increasing with each opportunity that occurs every other Saturday. Monsignor reported that community members who are not Parishioners at St. Catherine Siena are becoming involved in the Siena House mission through their various connections to St. Catherine (advertise in our bulletin). Duke Energy signed the lease of the property across from Siena House: the Coral Heights neighborhood

association is leasing the field from Duke for \$1.00 and the Police Athletic League is providing insurance and goal posts for a soccer field on this property.

- Monsignor is anticipating inviting Karen Seel, City Commissioner, to tour Siena House at its official dedication. He would also like to have other City Commissioners present, the Sheriff's Office representatives, the Pastor from Abundant Life Church who donated school supplies to the Coral Heights to over 140 neighborhood children, and St. Catherine Siena representatives. The Pastor of Abundant Life introduced Monsignor to Siena House neighbors, acknowledging that our Parish of St. Catherine Siena, purchased the property and house for the neighborhood community. Monsignor's hope is that the Siena House will be a model for at-risk communities. He also noted that a goal is to establish community gardens in which families can grow their own produce. Additionally, Monsignor shared his anticipation that Coral Heights community members will eventually assist with cleaning the Siena House and caring for the property and grounds in general.

Forming Intentional Disciples

- Marla Ustick, Jamie Pennell, and Sherri Briand have worked diligently to find a program that would be a good fit for St. Catherine's community for facilitating the development of Intentional Disciples.
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- We are starting with the program Alpha. Monsignor referred to the *Joy of the Gospel* and noted Pope Francis' invitation to renew one's relationship with and encounter Jesus Christ. **Alpha** is a program that focuses on encountering Jesus Christ and sharing their personal encounters with fellow parishioners. Alpha will begin in September and will be held on Sunday at 4:00 in the afternoon followed by 6:00 PM Mass and will begin with participants sharing a meal together. Additionally, the middle and high school programs, Edge and Life Teen, will do the same. Alpha is a program for all ages and families can participate together. In January, the Encuentro program will be held at St. Catherine. Encuentro is the Bishop's initiative for the Hispanic community of Catholics. Encuentro requires that one talk about his faith in the community then report to his faith group the effect his story had on others. Encuentro is held in both Spanish and English and forms Missionary disciples. Alpha will lead into Encuentro.
- Each Fall, *Alpha* will be an annual event and in winter, *Encuentro* will be held. *Living your strengths*, is a program that has an inventory of personal gifts for Catholics; what gifts can you bring to church and can be conducted personally or within a group. All three programs will be offered in sequence to develop Intentional Disciples

Caring for Our Common Home

- Sister Kathleen announced that St. Catherine's will again hold a "Junk in the Trunk" event the first Saturday in November. She also asked that we continue to promote recycling and she is having a large blue recycling bin delivered to the church that will be available at all parish events.
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- Chris Creamer reported that she attended an opportunity, Civil Discourse on immigration Reform, held at St. Patrick's in Tampa that focused on Immigration and how to assist refugees with all aspects of obtaining a qualitative life. Approximately one fourth of the attendees were St. Catherine parishioners.
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- Monsignor reported that Karen Seel, Largo County Commissioner, is working toward providing more affordable housing and looking at Pennies for Pinellas and pushing 8% into combining affordable housing with bringing companies and jobs into Pinellas County. This is a major justice issue Pinellas is facing at this time. Additionally, justice

commission is working toward reform for those released from prison to regain the right to vote. Justice Commission is looking toward sending a card to Tallahassee to ask for reform of the Florida State Constitution to allow voting rights to those who have been imprisoned.

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Connecting Faith to Family

- St. Catherine held its fourth Financial Peace University that has helped over 100 people regain financial stability over the past four sessions. Non-Catholics as well as our parishioners attended this last session that is a biblical initiative.
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- Jerry and Kathy Malarkey have organized and conducted Date Night for married couples at St. Catherine Siena. Sessions have focused on fidelity and the effects of the epidemic pornography on a marriage in the country. Supporting also a Marriage Enrichment Day for couples that will be held at St. Catherine Siena.

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Parish Twinning

- Looking for opportunity and places that are safe for parishioners; feasibility of Columbia as a place to establish Parish Twinning
- Monsignor advised that Parish Twinning is to care what is going on in this parish, the next, and in third world countries. We cannot neglect the poverty in third world countries. Catholic Charities addresses only domestic issues. Catholic Relief Services do address issues outside of domestic sites. Monsignor's goal is to experience a relationship with real poverty.
- Monsignor asked the Council to seek out Parishioners who may have experience with Parish Twinning or with countries in which there is poverty and neglect.
- Goals would be to have a 3 to 5 year plan for Parish Twinning, to find "the right spot," that would be safe, and that would be accessible.
- Suggested placing an announcement for those who may experience with Parish Twinning in the bulletin.

New Business

Convocation for Catholic Leaders: "Living as Missionary Disciples"

- The focal point of this Convocation is the call to be missionary disciples and that we need to renew our relationship with Christ. As a church and community we need to be missionary disciples in the world in which we live. Monsignor meeting with Bishop Parkes who will use his listening sessions and delegation that went to Orlando to form the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese.
- Monsignor asked that we reflect on going into the community and share what we are doing at St. Catherine's to draw attention to our Parish. Sister Kathleen noted that she has a participant in her Bible study who is not Catholic but who has recruited other non-Catholics to come to participate in the Bible study. Monsignor emphasized that we have to have a relationship with others before they will want to come to St. Catherine's.

EWTN "Savoring Our Faith"

- Father Leo of EWTN will highlight St. Catherine Siena on the "Savoring Our Faith" program next summer. Father's goal is to visit churches throughout the dioceses that reflect both a traditional and modern architecture, of which St. Catherine's was selected as the modern architecture. He then visits restaurants in the area and discusses how to connect table ministry with the Eucharist. St. Catherine's will be highlighted on the program sometime next summer.

Stewardship Commission, Faith Formation Commission, Justice Commission

- Monsignor announced that the Stewardship commission will be changed to the Discipleship Commission: Sherri will be assisted by Jamie Pennell and Marla Ustick
- The Faith Formation Commission will be headed up by Elizabeth who will provide updated reports on Faith formation
- Sister Kathleen will be working with Bob Meehan on the Justice Commission and F.A.S.T.

Pastor's Remarks

On September 27th, Pope Francis will launch ***Caritas International Campaign, Share the Journey***, geared to promote encounters with Migrants and Refugees. Monsignor would like to do something on the 27th to participate in this endeavor. Sonia suggested just listening to their stories would be invaluable. Monsignor cautioned that we would have to be respectful of their cultural values as we listen to their challenges. We have a relationship with refugees who have contacted the parish through Sister Rosamunda. Keith suggested having a dinner and preparing their traditional foods. Monsignor will take that recommendation to the parish staff. Monsignor suggested interviewing a few refugees and we would share their story.

An email from *Catholic Leadership Institute* to Monsignor indicated that they would like to highlight St. Catherine Siena in their 2017 Fiscal Impact report for St. Catherine's use of the DMI (Disciple Maker Index) results in our Pastoral Planning process.

St. Jude Medal Award: Kathy and Jerry Malarkey have been nominated for the St. Jude Medal. They have both been very involved in the Parish and have implemented the Marriage Enrichment program. Jerry has served on the Pastoral Council, Kathy is a Eucharistic Minister, and both sing in the choir and have contributed greatly in many different ways to this Parish.

Brenda Atherton inquired about the status of the *Women's' group, DCCW*. Monsignor explained that many of the previous members are no longer involved for various reasons and that, although Mary Ann Holup attempted to keep it going, it wasn't feasible at the time. Brenda has participated in this Faith initiative and would like to assist in redeveloping it and keeping it going. Monsignor asked Brenda to contact Mary Ann relative to the current status of the group and update the Council at the next meeting. He requested that she consider how she wanted it organized to define its mission.

Upcoming Projects: Over the summer, the display case in the old cry room in Resurrection Hall will be converted for displaying church archives. Monsignor estimated the transition should occur by the end of August.

The Parish has ordered new lettering to include the address and lighting for the St. Catherine Siena sign in the front of the church. The sign will read St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church.

Father Jack offered the closing prayer

Next meeting: October 9th, 2017 at 7:00 pm in Resurrection Hall, Room 10. Adjournment and closing prayer was by Msgr. Morris at 8:55 pm.

Minutes respectfully taken and submitted by Beth Langley