

St. Catherine of Siena Pastoral Council Minutes

January 8, 2018

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

Absent:

Religious Clergy, Nuns and Laity Present: J. Marino, Sr. Kathleen

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Pastoral Plan: Chris noted that our parish calendars reflect our Parish priorities: 2017 emphasized the Eucharist and 2018 calendar, Discipleship.

Siena House Update: Msgr. Shared that the dedication of the house on December 16th was impressive. A large contingency of the Coral Heights residents turned out for the event and assisted with the set up and organization of the day. Toys were distributed to 150 families/children in the neighborhoods of Coral Heights and High point thanks to the generosity of St. Catherine Siena's parishioners and St Vincent dePaul. Left over toys were distributed to families who attended the December food distribution at Coral Heights.

Father Marino directed council members to look at the recent bulletin to see the extent to which St. Catherine's parishioners contribute food and other goods to the needy. He cited a significant need in our parish boundaries of individuals/families needing assistance from St. Vincent dePaul, including assistance with payment of bills and follow up of provided services. Those being helped must live within the boundaries of St. Catherine Siena.

Encounter: Anne Marie shared that relatively few people were in attendance for Encounter but felt that the low numbers may be attributed to the timing of the sessions and Brenda noted that many of the children were absent from Faith Formation classes; subsequently, those parents were not in attendance. Ann Marie found that many of the parishioners in attendance felt that the music seemed too loud during the reflection. Deacon Paco has been available for the hispanic families who want to participate. Both Chris and Marla felt that participants at each of their tables engaged in good discussion during meditation on the scriptures. They reported that participants at their tables felt that the scriptures had a personal connection with them based on the meditation. Some participants appeared hesitant to share but Marla reported that she appreciated the quiet time that allowed her to further reflect on the scripture. Chris suggested that when participants arrived, offering each a number that would direct them to a specific table to meet other people, anticipating that this may facilitate conversation. Both Marla and Chris felt that changing the time of the break may help the continuity of the reflection.

Caring for Our Common Home: Sister Kathleen reported that over 500 signatures were collected on the petition to allow individuals who have served their time in jail to have reinstated their right to vote,

pending they were not predators. Signatures were solicited for the petition all over the state and will have to be verified before an official number will be shared.

The next issue that will be addressed is human trafficking. Sister noted that a new couple in the parish are involved in working against human trafficking and may be willing to join the justice committee and volunteer to discuss the issue with the parish.

Connecting Our Faith to the Family and Community: Jerry and Kathy Mularkey continue to coordinate the Marriage Enrichment sessions that have occurred in July, August, September, October, November, and December with sessions averaging about 17 couples. Topics vary across sessions with January focusing on Communication. They are currently reviewing a marriage enrichment program produced by the same company that developed Alpha. Their initial response was that the program content seemed to address their goals and they will be looking at it more closely to determine whether it is a good fit for the ministry.

Sister Rosamunda and a team of parishioners each month since October are going door to door in the 12 streets of the Coral Heights neighborhood. Groups of two to three go to each home to greet residents and let them know St. Catherine's is their neighbor now and to make sure they know about the food distribution on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Residents are asked to complete a form about the demographics of their family and to document needs they have that St. Catherine's may provide or assist in addressing. To date, 32 families have received assistance of some form. Resident requests have included a bus stop at the entrance of their neighborhood, some manner of slowing down speeding cars, activities for children to prevent mischief, lowering crime, and tutoring of children. Father Marino noted that speed bumps have been placed on the main thoroughfare leading into the neighborhood. He also explained that some of these are on hold pending further information from tax rolls.

Elizabeth Chinery, Director of Faith Formation, announced that Sherri Briand, Director of Discipleship and Youth Ministry is taking a group of Life teens to St. Augustine in January for the March for Life walk.

NEW BUSINESS

Visioning the Way

Monsignor and a team of lay and religious have had three meetings with Bishop Parkes and are working with the Catholic Leadership Institute to establish Visioning the Way pastoral plan for Diocese. Bishop Parkes hopes to have a pastoral plan and priorities in place by April. Bishop Parkes really wants to listen to people to hear what they have to say about their priorities for our Diocese (the team is selecting three priorities for the Diocese). Monsignor shared that he would like for St. Catherine's to see what the Bishop selects and then emphasize those as we develop our parish Re-Visioning the Way priorities for our next pastoral plan so that it ties in with Bishop Parkes' broader plan. Monsignor asked the Council whether we thought we could form our own Visioning the Way plan on our own or whether we would benefit from hiring the Catholic Leadership Institute to assist us. The Council felt that we have the expertise, along with previous Council members who developed the initial Pastoral Plan, to design our new plan. Monsignor noted that he is willing to seek help from the Institute if we become "stuck" in forming our plan.

Discernment: Brenda, Keith, and Beth are on the Discernment Committee and have set the Discernment date for April 28th, Saturday, in Resurrection Hall. Beth has procured the assistance of Linda Johnston to be the Facilitator for the Discernment Process. The Information night for potential Council members will be April the 17th. The Discernment Process will occur between 10:00 and 12:00. Monsignor requested that Sonia and Chris extend their term on the Council to assist with the development of the Visioning the Way parish plan.

Parish security: Monsignor reported that someone from the Sheriff's office talked with staff, ushers, and greeters to discuss keeping the parish safe. All felt that his insight and suggestions were helpful. He explained that the worst thing to do is to sit still. He shared that all should exit in a direction away from the danger. He noted that we should not encourage people to carry concealed weapon permits as police may not be able to know at whom they are shooting. He felt that having the deputy in front of the parish and the greeters and ushers in the Narthex to see who is coming in is sufficient and they may still participate in the Mass. Someone should always be monitoring the Narthex. There may be further discussion/workshop in the Diocese on safety.

50th anniversary of Diocese: Three things will occur:

1. The Bishop wants to consecrate the Diocese to Our Mother, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This will take place in May
2. On June 16th at 11:00 AM at St. Judes there will be a celebration of the Dioceses on the actual anniversary date.
3. There will be a Diocesan Family Fest in October 27th at Al Lopez Park in Tampa

We will have a banner in the Narthex to proclaim the 50th Anniversary.

PASTORS' REMARKS

Monsignor shared financial updates, including the Annual Pastoral Assessment, noting that the parish is very close to meeting the assessed amount. He felt that by Ash Wednesday, the parish may have enough or more to meet our obligation.

We have been given a bequest of \$287,000 for which we need to be good stewards. One suggestion has been to use the monies towards paying off the mortgage or for a renovation of the parish center bathrooms and the office space. Additionally, the parish is due for exterior painting in addition to ongoing maintenance problems. Monsignor approached the Diocese for taking on our loan and we would repay them. He felt that having a manageable debt is a good thing. He will speak to the Financial Council and ask them for advice on what may be best for the parish.

Father Cornforth will be with us for a couple of weeks from January 15th. He has been coming to St. Catherine's for a number of years.

Respectfully submitted
Beth Langley

