

St. Catherine of Siena Pastoral Council Minutes

May 14, 2018

Members Present: Msgr. R. Morris, B. Langley, C. Creamer, K. Bentley, AM Hoobin, J. Hlavacka, B. Atherton, M. Ustick, S. Helton, Joe Hlavacka, Brenda Atherton, Sandra Garcia-Olivares

Absent: K. Bentley. Holly Andrade

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

Other: Sherri Briand, Director of Discipleship and Youth Ministry; Mandy Westrich, Faith Formation Coordinator

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

Minutes from the April meeting were read and corrected. Motion to approve was passed

NEW BUSINESS

* Introduction of new pastoral members and Parish staff. Election of new pastoral positions postponed until all members present.

* **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE:** review of the past year's religious education and input from staff and parents suggested that family time was not being used effectively as students from the same family were in classes on different days and families were stretched thin on school nights. The sacramental programs needed to be improved and updated. As Catechists are Volunteers, they need systematic training, including behavior and classroom management skills; additional support is needed in each classroom, and the religious education books were not being well utilized. The Youth Team and other Catechists needed additional support as well. Monsignor shared that Religious Education is a Parish Priority for 2018-2019.

Proposed:

* All education classes will be held on Sunday: Pre-K through 5th grade, will be held in the morning with Mandy coordinating classes and sacramental training. Edge and Life teen will be a combined Team and, with Alpha and Living Our Strengths, will continue on Sunday afternoon/evening. RCIA will also be held on Sunday afternoon/evening. Sacramental prep time will be combined. Super Saturdays will be held in October, December, January, and March during which Sacramental trainings and preparation will be held.

* **Super Saturdays:** Families will attend 8:00 AM Mass together and then share breakfast. Parents will attend classes based on the Sacrament for which their is preparing from 9:00 to 10:00 and may then leave and return for students at 12:00. Faith formation hours will be increased from 8 to 12 hours. Sacramental preparation for confirmation to the YOUCAT program that will offer students both fun and interactive activities. Mandy shared that she is reviewing a new curriculum for students preparing for First Communion that contains resources for parents. Enable parents to be able to discuss with student what they learned each evening through a series of talking points for families.

* **Classrooms** will be better equipped for Catechists; materials will be based on each specific classroom of students so that Catechists may change activity based on the students' receptivity and readiness state there will be multisensory options for each classroom.

* **Catechist support:** Will be bringing in new curriculum and someone from the company to train Catechists on the curriculum and offer resources. We would like to stay and grow with the company. Instruction will also be offered for basic classroom management strategies from a teaching perspective. Building a routine will be a key component as well as offering alternative activities that promotes movement and interaction with the curriculum based on the theme being studied. Mandy will attend a diocesan mentoring program with Brian Lemoi who heads the Diosean Faith formation programs.

Monsignor's goal is to blend classroom programs so that one program leads to the next. Cross training will be critical so that each Catechist may carry on should another be out for some reason. Monsignor will be looking at recruiting catechists as well as looking at enrollment: 26 classes are anticipated for the upcoming school year 2018-2019. Mandy expressed desire to speak at each Mass to recruit Catechists and re-energize the programs by giving families opportunities to share new ideas with the Faith Formation teams.

"Boots on the Ground" ideas: Registration fairs to set up stations and information possibly at coffee and donuts time or in the Narthex where new curriculum books will be available or parents to explore. Two registration fairs are being planned for August to provide time to educate and engage parents and students on the the new curriculum and empower the parents with opportunities to offer input. Also during this time, Catechists will be recruited.

Youth team: Eight team members will be interchangeable although the middle school and high school students will meet separately.

TRENDS IN THE PARISH: Monsignor shared that significant trends that are happening for St. Catherine Siena include:

St. Catherine's attendance at Mass is increasing, more families are attending Mass together, Baptisms are increasing. Through the sacramental programs, more families are involved and attending.

PASTORAL PLAN UPDATE: Monsignor reported that through the use of the Institute for Catholic Leadership "Discernment cards" that review everything possible that could be a part of Church administration and ministry designed to help us identify parish priorities. Those discerned by the Council included: Faith Formation, Changing demographics, and Not every parishioner understands our "vision." These are the areas that we will address but also waiting for Bishop Parkes' priorities so that we can tie ours in with his to combine goals and develop measurable goals based on our priorities for change. We will define three key areas of focus and assign a council member to take lead on each of the three focus areas.

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed by counsel members and approved by Beth and 2nd by Joe.

UPDATES on PARISH IMPROVEMENTS: Monsignor shared specific updates on the Parish Improvement projects. Available in the Narthex are graphics and pictures of the proposed changes of both the parish center and Staff offices Changes to the office will include revisions in the Rectory. Modifications will begin in July and proceed through September.

Respectfully submitted

M.Beth Langley, Recorder