

HOLY CROSS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Date: October 10, 2023

Minutes approved: Sunday, March 3, 2024

Open with prayer: The Romero Prayer (see back)

Present: Maureen Joy, Kerry L. Mess, Dana Mockovciak, Matthew Tabone

Absent: Mike Stensland, Jenna Turner (school), Carol Tyson (dark), Marguerite Webster (class)

I. Agenda

A. Approval of minutes – **approved unanimously**

B. Visioning exercise – Next Steps:

1. Identify the most common or most resonating words and/or phrases from the Community Interview. (See groups in chart below.)
2. Assess overlaps from individuals' chosen words/phrases.
3. Play with putting the overlapping words together: You may end up changing a word or its form – this is OK! There's no "right way" through this process; it's one of exploration.

Vision Statement Goals

- Short and sweet: Ideally 12 words or less
- Clear and direct: Creates a picture of the world we want to be
- Is timeless: Not connected to past or present
Example – Equal rights for all people (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)
- You'll know it when you hit the right formula of words – it will resonate with everyone in an exciting way that feels as if it opens possibilities, ways forward

Post-it notes from community interview sharing

Religious ed Religious education of adults & children Children – religious ed Sharing faith with children & community Faith formation/religious education Children	Church family Closeness & dedication Welcoming, close knit, intimate Close-knit, personal connections Welcoming Be welcoming – bring in community Close community Caring Connection: interfaith, community	Sharing ideas Vibrant Vibrant Build a vibrant community Need to be growing Growing the community Growth Grow!
Getting people involved Helpful Participation by all in some way (asking, inviting) Involvement Active participation	Community Small community	Social justice Mercy Witness Building a vision
	We persevere Commitment Commitment of members to participate	Social activities More fun

Vision: A welcoming, vibrant community committed to growing in and sharing the love of Jesus

C. Bring to the parish: Survey? (to include some of the September business ideas? See below.)

YES: Have in church, **Sunday, November 12**, corresponding with coffee hour after mass; follow up with those not present and on church rolls (See mock survey included from Parish Council binder.)

Next council meeting to shape survey for distribution. (See note on day, time of council meetings.)

Below are items to include in survey.

1. Parish rosary program
2. *The Chosen* group watch/Parish movie nights: ½ hour to watch, then discuss
3. Adult faith formation: *Hinds Feet on High Places* book study/discussion group

II. Revisiting September Business

A. Sister Parish request from African diocesan priest

Have we verified this request is legitimate with Albany? Yes, Albany verified this is NOT a legitimate request: Do NOT pay attention to it.

III. New Business?

Move parish council meetings to after mass – people are present, light out even in winter: Next meeting, Sunday, November 5 (to work on survey for following Sunday)

Parish constitution (we also have by-laws): Need review. Kerry will contact the diocese before the December meeting to determine what is required or what parameters exist for revising/shaping in light of new vision (and results of survey?)

Fr. Bob Longobucco (Albany) coming 12 p.m., Friday, October 13 – will not say why

IV. Next Meeting: ~~Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 6 p.m., rectory~~

Sunday, November 5, after mass

*Parish Survey

**How do we want to publish Parish Pastoral Council meeting minutes?

***Parish calendar? (2024)

***Parish @gmail.com account: Who is monitoring? Do we need to split up among a group?

“The Romero Prayer”

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church’s mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Parish Survey [from Parish Pastoral Council Binder—needs to be edited/amended!]

Name: _____ *(optional in original, but we need this to ensure we can follow up with those not present; we need the input!)*

Gender: Male Female

Age: under 18 18-35 36-54 55-70 over 70

Marital status: single married separated divorced widowed

How many persons are in your household and what are their ages: _____

Is there someone in your household who needs special consideration? _____Yes _____No

Years with the Parish: less than 1 1-15 16-30 31-45 45 and over

Have you registered with the Parish? _____Yes _____No

How often do you attend Mass: Weekly 1-3 times/month Less than once / month

Do you read the Parish bulletin: _____Yes _____No, why: _____

There are effective lines of communication within the Parish. _____Yes _____No

Do you have any talents you will be willing to share with the parish? _____Yes, what: _____ _____No

Please rate the following statements:

<i>I feel connected to our Church community.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>There is an overall sense of teamwork and cooperation in the Parish.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Newcomers to the Parish feel welcomed.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Parishioners are encouraged to become involved in Parish activities.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>I would be interested in becoming more active in Parish social activities.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>I would volunteer to help get programs established.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>I would attend non-denominational activities with other churches.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>I have adequate access to the spiritual leader of the Parish.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>I am satisfied with the level of involvement of the youth in our Parish.</i>	1	2	3	4	5

In summary, my overall experience at Holy Cross Parish is: _____

Parish strengths: _____

Parish concerns or areas for improvement: _____

Would like a member of the Parish Pastoral Council to contact you about your ideas? _____Yes _____No

If yes, please include the best phone number and best times to reach you.

Please return completed surveys to the box on the table in the rear of the church.