

HOLY CROSS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Date: January 28, 2024

Minutes approved: Sunday, March 3, 2024

Open with prayer: from Thomas Merton

Present: Kerry L. Mess, Betty O'Brien, Jen Spivey, Mike Stensland, Matthew Tabone, Marguerite Webster

Absent: Dana Mockovciak, Jenna Turner, Carol Tyson

I. Last meeting: Approval of minutes (October, November)

II. Meeting Items

A. Quick clean up:

1. Checking parish email – Do we have a need for this? We haven't been getting much mail. Need to announce at end of mass, so people know we have an email address and how to find/use it.

holycrosschurch@gmail.com; password: IcandoallthingsthroughChrist – Need to verify through Matthew's phone.

1st week: Jen Spivey, Kerry

2nd week: John and Betty O'Brien

3rd week: Jenna Turner

4th week: Marguerite Webster

5th week: Matthew Tabone

2. Report: Kerry has contacted diocese about requirements/parameters for reviewing parish constitution and by-laws. Working on access to Diocesan Portal. [It's OK if this waits for a bit. Building community is current focus.]

B. Review of Parish Surveys

1. What have we learned?

People not wanting to do all the things – people happy with the way things are

Want to see more youth involved

Need recharging, spiritual nourishment

Interested in holy hour, rosary (before, after mass?) – before or after church; easier than coming back

Do we need a priest for holy hour with exposition of sacrament?

Interest in different things – few people for different things

Compliments to vacuuming and candles – great work!

Feedback from usual parishioners – those interested and invested

Keep having opportunities and initiations

If you ask someone, often get a yes [call by name – diocesan thing – more likely to get response when you ask directly]

2. What's missing?

Keep the heat on [Energy audit ~ 10 years ago: Recommendations for church on a list:

insulation in floor, furnace tricky but relatively new-ish –things can be done to address issues]

Make church comfortable for people – homey

Time works well

Bulletin board – what’s going on around town, in church

Connecting with other churches in town to share calendar of events, information – compile, post; more connection to other churches (attending services)

Food pantry information

Number for Catholic Charities – how to get in touch, responsiveness?

Gathering Place information

Senior center in FoxCare, VA services

DID YOU KNOW section in bulletin

People come to get something – outreach

Advertising for bulletin?

Next door neighbor – complaint about trees over shed (trim or cut down) [call back in spring?]

Parishioners that live locally, think “church is always going to be there” (show up on Christmas, Easter) – need to reach out

System for keeping track of those homebound, in need

Need follow up with Aggie

Monthly something that connects with community to bring people in [Maureen and Matthew talked about some sort of dinner during Lent – spaghetti, but no meat?] Fish fry? Goal = community [talk to Methodists and Episcopalians about numbers]

Suggestion box for parish – at back of church; bulletin board postings (use what we have)

3. What’s next?
 - a. Contacting those who did not complete a survey
 - i. Attending parishioners
 - ii. Nonattending parishioners
 - b. Next steps for parish building

III. New Business?

Next meeting: Sunday, March 3

Meal: Friday, March 8 [*John Nitto used to do this at St. Mary’s; has all the information on what they did*]

Planning meeting: Sunday, Feb. 11 – with coffee hour [Our Lady of Lourdes day]

Marguerite will do research on food (fish, salt potatoes, etc...)

AND starting rosary before or after mass during Lent

When do Methodists have their dinner?

URL for Fr. David’s website

URL for... *what am I forgetting?*

Maureen: People who go to Oneonta every week – can we get someone to take the collection to the bank? [Kerry can do this starting Feb. 12.]

PRAYER BY THOMAS MERTON

O Lord God,
[We] have no idea where [we are] going,
[We] do not see the road ahead of [us],
[We] cannot know for certain where it will
end.
Nor do [we] really know [ourselves],
And that fact that [we] think
[We] are following Your will
Does not mean that [we] are actually doing
so.
But [we] believe
That the desire to please You
Does in fact please You.
And [we] hope [we] have that desire

In all that [we] are doing.
[We] hope that [we] will never do anything
Apart from that desire to please You.
And [we] know that if [we] do this
You will lead [us] by the right road,
Though [we] may know nothing about it.
Therefore [we] will trust You always
Though [we] may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death.
[We] will not fear,
For You are ever with [us],
And You will never leave [us]
To make [our] journey alone.

October 2023 Minutes

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Date: October 10, 2023

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)

IV. 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 Community Small 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	We persevere Commitment Commitment of members to participate	Social justice Mercy Witness Building a vision
		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

V. 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.

VI. 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

VII. **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?

November 2023 Minutes

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Date: November 5, 2023

Open with prayer: Romero Prayer

Present: Maureen Joy, Kerry L. Mess, Matthew Tabone, Jenna Turner, Carol Tyson, Marguerite Webster,
Jen Spivey, Betty and John O'Brien

Absent: Dana Mockovciak (out of town), Mike Stensland

VIII. Last meeting: Approval of minutes for October 10, 2023 – **needs to be done!**

IX. Meeting Items

C. Parish Logistics

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

Put on website. Include in bulletin how to reach website. Send out via parish email group from parish email account (need to create an email group).

5. Parish @gmail.com account: Who is monitoring? Do we need to split up among a group?
holycrossrcchurch@gmail.com; password: IcandoallthingsthroughChrist – **Need to verify through Matthew's phone.**

1st week: Jen Spivey, Kerry

2nd week: John and Betty O'Brien

3rd week: Jenna Turner

4th week: Marguerite Webster

5th week: Matthew Tabone

6. Mass count system 51 (11/5)

Count everyone, including babies

Joe Tyson, Mike Stensland, John O'Brien

7. Parish calendar? (2024 – too late?)

Tabled

D. Parish Survey work

X. New Business?

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?)

Need to look at registration form: What needs to be on the form?

Matthew Tabone and John O'Brien will take a look.

Marguerite: greeter, lector, eucharistic minister,

Joe Tyson: usher, gift bearers

Bulletin: all welcome to Sunday school; if you are interested in what's happening