



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Pastoral Council
Meeting Notes: February 23, 2016 - APPROVED

Present:

<u>Staff</u>	Fr. Morgan Rice, Carol Wilke
<u>Members</u>	Janet Archibald, Maryfran Fettinger, Mike Messenger, John Miller, Peter Nowak, Molly Ramich, Dan Schum, Patty Sheridan, Colleen White
<u>Finance Council</u>	John Aloisio
<u>Guests</u>	Donna Walker
<u>Absent</u>	Fr. Paul English, Louisa Baars, Brendan Cole, Vicky Critchley, Michele Doherty, Rick Walther

Opening Prayer

M. Messenger opened the meeting with prayer.

Mission/Vision Statement

Together, council members recited the SKT Mission and Vision Statements.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Consensus was reached to approve the January 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes with minor revisions. POST MEETING council members expressed a desire to express a heartfelt thank you to ALL who worked on the Christmas baskets and gifts. The projects required a great deal of time and effort by the volunteers guided by our dedicated pastoral associates, Mary Ann Noto and Donna Moll.

Town Hall Meeting

Comments regarding the Town Hall meeting were made, including:

- The website needs a better link to the meeting minutes for both finance and pastoral councils (M. Messenger to contact D. Walker).
- Posting of the council meeting minutes was questioned. POST MEETING - Council members looked into this and it appears that minutes posted in the notebook at Christ the King site were being removed. The book has been re-populated and will be monitored by staff. Other sites confirmed the notebooks are complete and up-to-date).
- There were 48 parishioners in attendance.
- Questions raised at the meeting were addressed at the meeting.
- A request was made for regular reports from Saint Kateri School be part of the ministry reports to council and posted to the website. (M. Messenger to follow-up).

Pastor and Vicar Reports

- Fr. Rice shared:
 - He recently returned from a Basilian business trip to Texas, which he combined with a visit with his family. He will continue to be away on Basilian business about a week a month.
 - Many Lenten activities are happening and Holy Week activities are being planned.

- There are no baptisms during Lent, but there continue to be a high number of funerals.
- March 9 is the Diocesan Day of Reconciliation and Mercy.
- Prayers for our candidates and catechumens were requested.

Fr. Paul is away on business for Aquinas Institute.

Finance Council Report

January 31, 2016 Revenue & Expense Statements, Balance Sheet and related Summaries for the Parish and School were circulated to council members before the meeting. J. Aloisio and C. Wilke commented at the meeting:

- Alesco representatives made a report to the finance council on February 22 including a recap of 2015 account performance. The account losses were not as bad as some other indexes and since the account inception, there is a 7.6% return which is very good. The FC is pleased with Alesco's service and low fees.
- Offertory income is about \$75,000 lower than expected for the seven months July through January, partially offset with gifts, donations and fundraising. Fortunately, actual expenses for the same period were about \$70,000 lower than budgeted.
- The commitment campaign will begin early March. Again - this is a commitment campaign for budgeting purposes and the focus is not on increased giving, but on making a commitment, telling the parish what it is and following through on it throughout the year.
- The Building and Grounds subcommittee and SKT Property Manager are participating in early discussions with M/E Engineering and an architect on upcoming projects.
- Fr. Paul presented a plan to the FC to proceed with Phase I of the Welcome Center proposal so the project will be part of the 2016-17 budget. Future phases will be on the radar.
- Interest has been shown in renting part of the Saint Cecilia vacant school building. Significant upgrades will have to be made before the building can be used by the parish or rented. The economic business case will be reviewed closely before proceeding, taking into consideration potential revenue for multiple years.
- Co-location of parish offices is proceeding. Estimates for necessary work are being collected.

Discussion followed around the topic of how to communicate to parishioners how important it is to make a commitment and follow through with it (just like your home or business, the same expenses are there whether or not a parishioner is present).

Electronic giving helps reduce labor costs and generally ensures steady giving. It was noted that electronic giving includes the option of receiving envelopes for holy days and special collections, but additional action must be taken to make electronic donations for the "extras."

"Bill Pay" is an option where the bank sends a check to the parish rather than an automatic withdrawal from an account - under this method, parishioners would not have to provide the parish with their bank account information. FC will advertise this option more.

New Evangelization

Prior to the meeting, the Executive Committee asked council members to consider the following questions:

- What are we saying by *under-servicing* the 19-40 yr.?

- ☒ How do we operationalize the parish's priority of serving and connecting with this age group?
- ☒ How do we "RE-BRAND" what we are doing?

- Members were asked to query those they know in this age group to get an idea of what they might need from the parish.
- The common fact that 80% of the work of a group is done by 20% of the members of that group does not work for Catholics - for us, 80% of the work is done by 6.8% of the members! If we can raise the participation rate by just 1%/year, this would be substantial evangelization and a significant increase in participation.
- The group must be broken down into at least 3 smaller groups, perhaps by commonality ("life experiences") rather than age.
- Reaching college students could include Facebook & Twitter postings; encourage identifying the local Newman Center on their campus; information regarding existing Diocesan programming for this age group (which reaches a larger audience than at the parish level).
- Reaching young adults could be through contacts with local realtors, providing welcome packets or parish information to give to young couples or families purchasing homes in Irondequoit.
- Direct each of our parish ministries and committees to reach out to its members and commit to grow by one or two members every year.
- It was noted that we first need to know WHY this age group is not participating in parish activities or attending church to be able to address the issue or we risk not addressing the root issue and spin our wheels (and burn out our volunteers).
- It was noted that the initial question raised by Fr. Paul was how to serve those we do have in this age group (before investing efforts to evangelize to this age group).
- Donna Walker addressed the council with a gift of the book, Rediscover Jesus, by Matthew Kelly and a request to read it and share it with the goal of learning why Catholics are walking away and how to reconnect. She pointed out the characteristics of an "engaged Catholic" -
 - Daily prayer in some form
 - Learning about the Catholic faith and sharing it
 - Being full of joy and a desire to serve
 - Evangelizing

"God wants us to be the best person we can be"

Donna also suggested signing up online through the parish website to receive via email the daily reflection "Best Lent Ever".

Ministry Reports

Baptism Ministry, Evangelization Committee, Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, Music Ministry and Pastoral Associates reports were circulated to members prior to the meeting and are available on the parish website.

M. Messenger asked members for support of the request from the Baptism Ministry for suggestions for members to join the group from all sites to insure the ability to follow-up with families with a recently baptized child.

Homework Reports - Eyes & Ears

- May 13, 14 & 15 is the Saint Kateri 5th Anniversary Celebration - a HUGE event including music, parties, liturgical celebrations and events.

- There will be a booth at the town 4th of July event to sell raffle tickets. Every ministry and organization will be asked to provide volunteers to staff the booth during certain time slots.
- P. Sheridan comments that the PUSH presentation was a great event with a good turn-out.
- An inquiry regarding the status of the Saint Salome Relegation was raised. C. Wilke confirmed that the time period for objection has now passed and no communication was received by the Diocese so the parish will now proceed. An interested buyer has approached the parish and its proposal is under consideration. Details will be provided when appropriate due to confidentiality requirements.

PC Next Year - Membership update

M. Messenger will send email communications seeking volunteers for the executive committee positions, confirmation of returning members and suggestions for new membership.

Closing Prayer

M. Messenger led the Council in a closing prayer.

The next council meeting will be March 29, 2016.