



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Pastoral Council
Meeting Notes: November 28, 2017 - APPROVED

Present:

Staff

Fr. Paul English, Fr. Mike Buentello, Carol Wilke

Members

Janet Archibald, Kristine Brickler, Kathy Ehrhardt, Madeline Fasano, Maryfran Fettinger, Patty Sheridan, Ray Manuszak, Joe Kelly, Rob Spatola, Iluminada Vilca, Rick Walther

Trustee

Betsy Stehler

Absent:

Melinda Hensler

Guests:

Luisa Baars

Opening Prayer

The meeting began with members reciting an opening prayer provided by K. Ehrhardt.

Mission/Vision Statement

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

Open Forum - There were no speakers for Open Forum.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Consensus was reached to approve the October 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes with minor revisions.

Outreach - Puerto Rico

The Chair welcomed Luisa Baars, former council member, to the meeting to speak to members about helpful ways to support those impacted by Hurricane Maria on the island of Puerto Rico.

Ms. Baars spoke of her personal connections to family in Puerto Rico and described the current situation, in the metropolitan areas as well as rural areas to remain lack of power, water and infrastructure. Damage to roads and bridges impacts everything; hospitals, schools and businesses remain closed; people are dying because they cannot obtain needed medical care such as oxygen and dialysis. The need for help is great.

A local group of which Ms. Baars is a founder and member, the Latino Rotary (latinorotary.com) is working with a Rotary Club in Puerto to insure that donations are used where needed most. Because the Rotary is all volunteers, all donations are used for supporting the project. This group is exploring sponsoring restoration or rebuilding of a school or hospital as these are areas specifically supported by the Rotary.

Locally, the Ibero-American Action League (laal.org) is collecting donations for and assisting families that have relocated to Rochester from Puerto Rico with settlement help including food, clothing and shelter.

Ms. Baars also noted that the Rochester City School District is also seeking bilingual teachers.

Any assistance that the pastoral council or the parish can provide is much appreciated and will be used wisely.

Discussion followed. It was noted that:

- There is more need on the island than locally because there are few assistance resources on the island (businesses remain closed) so perhaps assistance should be focused there.
- Because the island remains in such poor shape, volunteers travelling there would only use up

resources, including shelter, food and water, needed by the residents. Planning for a mission trip in the future will be explored.

- Members expressed a desire to insure that our parishioners feel connected to those being helped - perhaps sponsoring a family, creating a sister-parish or adopting a school.
- Individual council members agreed to follow up with specific tasks to learn more about ways to be most helpful.

Pastor and Vicar Reports -

Fr. Paul reported/commented:

- The “Walk Through the Mass” program went well and is now available on the parish website.
- We recently held a retreat for the Eucharistic Ministers with Sr. Dietz that also went well.
- The staff lunch & learn sessions are focusing on internal communications to strengthen our staff relationships and efficiency.
- Pleased to report that our relationship with St. Ann’s Community through ISM continues and we received St. Ann’s \$7,000 contribution.
- I attended NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) with youth from our parish and area - about 170 from Rochester all together, joining a total of about 25,000 at the conference.
- Looking forward to a team building retreat at Chapel Oaks with the staff this week.
- Looking forward to our parish 40 Hour Devotion beginning on November 30. Fr. Tim Horan will preach at the 3 masses to be held during this time.
- The parish “Fall into Advent” program is December 2 and we expect as good if not a better program than last year’s initial program. All women of the council are encouraged to attend.
- The parish Giving Tree outreach has begun and tags from the trees at all sites are being taken.
- The parish food collection program has begun at all three sites but with centralized sorting and packing at St. Cecilia’s.
- Our theme “God Hopes Along with Us” begins at the start of Advent.
- Funerals, weddings, special events and board meetings continue at a steady pace.

Fr. Mike reported/commented:

- Funerals at SKT are more numerous than in his past assignments/experiences. Fr. recently visited the home of the family to make funeral arrangements (rather than the family coming to the office). This proved to be rewarding and seemed helpful to the family so hopefully this will happen more often.
- Fr. greets and interacts with our school students regularly.
- Fr. is responsible for altar server recruitment and training and hopes to focus on recruiting more boys to the program for although the girls are welcomed and encouraged, the girls far outnumber the boys and we would like to even this out.
- Fr. is looking forward to the 40 Hour Devotion and the enriching experience it will be.
- Fr. reminded all that Advent, fast approaching, is a “mini-Lent” - a time to prepare for Christ’s return.

Chair Messages

- Puerto Rico: follow-up discussion expanded the ideas raised after Ms. Baar’s talk, action items identified and responsible persons identified.
- 40 Hours Participation - members were reminded about this enriching opportunity and members offered their opinions on the benefits and rewards of participation.
- Irondequoit Post - Evangelization: the recent half page advertisements in the Irondequoit Post

were noted and shared. These publications are coordinated and funded by a parishioner. We are all most grateful for this effort and support.

Finance Council Report

C. Wilke reported/commented:

- We are 4 months into our fiscal year and find that our income is way down - 15% vs budget. Collections are down about 20%. Expenses are within 1% of budget so we are doing everything we can to keep them in line but our challenge is how to generate income.
- On the positive side regarding income: School enrollment is solid, donations are being received and CYO basketball begins now. SKT will be collecting admission once again (the Knights of Columbus are handling admission and concessions - SKT keeps the admission income and KOC keeps concession income).
- CMA commitments are at \$136,000 which is 62% of our dollar goal; 764 donor families - only 21% of our registered families have made a commitment to date.

Fr. Paul encouraged all to do our part to be Christ to everyone we connect with, especially in our town. Meeting our CMA goal, increasing our giving, making budget - this is secondary to our mission and purpose as Irondequoit Catholics. Fr. suggests we (perhaps) step outside our comfort zone and approach people to ask their story, offer to pray for or with them, tell them about how great Saint Kateri is in our lives and invite them to join us.

Old Business

- SKT School concern were raised by Sr. Kay in her October report to the council. The concerns centered around groups using the school and not leaving it in the same condition. There is a security plan in place and a security team. As follow-up, communications to Sr. Kay and the groups that use the school building suggesting very specific reporting is needed to insure any offenses are properly identified and can then be dealt with. It was further noted that it is the responsibility of users to report incidents (rather than their being discovered) and protocols must be nailed down and guidelines communicated to all.
- Fundraising - Fr. Paul is continuing efforts to get a committee and work started and again asked for names of people to contact and invite to join the committee.

Ministry Reports

Reports from Communications, Evangelization, Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, Irondequoit Senior Ministries/Good Samaritan Transportation, Music Ministry, Pastoral Associates and Finance/Administration were circulated to members prior to the meeting and are available on the parish website.

New Business

- Irondequoit Mall: the town is holding a meeting regarding use of the community space the new owner is offering in the former Irondequoit Mall building. R. Walther is attending the meeting on November 30 and will research possibilities for our parish
 - Ministry Reports: Discussing the "roadblocks"
- It was noted that filling the position for the person that prepares the bulletin is urgent so that J. Bounds has time to work on the tasks assigned to Director of Communications. Everyone is praying for a viable

candidate to come forward.

- It was noted that all ministries are asking for volunteers. How to get folks to step forward was discussed but no specific strategies were identified.

- Youth Ministry. R. Manuszak met with C. Trevisani on November 27 and noted that the committee is dwindling and desperately needs help. Many great ideas and plans are set or in process but she cannot make them happen without assistance and without participants.

- It was noted that there may be overlap in bereavement ministry. Fr. Paul or C. Wilke will verify if this is overlap or collaboration.

Eyes & Ears

- M. Fasano described her experience in attending NCYC, expanded on the people attending and activities and thanked parishioners for their generous financial support. A final comment was that in the future, more SKT teens should attend and she encouraged council members to do what they can to make that happen.
- A concern regarding security in our churches was raised in light of the recent violent events in places of worship. Fr. Paul advised that Bishop Matano recently suggested that parishes adopt a plan. As no guidance from DOR was forthcoming, Fr. approached Chief Tantalo to speak to the staff so the parish is moving forward to develop a plan.

Review of Action Items and Bulletin Item

J. Archibald reviewed the specific action items raised during the meeting and items to be mentioned in the next council bulletin note.

Closing Prayer

The meeting concluded with a prayer provided by K. Ehrhardt K.

The next council meeting will be December 19, 2017 in Room 137, Saint Kateri School.