

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF THE BLESSED TRINITY
PASTORAL COUNCIL ~ MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2021
6:00 PM @ ST. MM**



Attendees: Fr. Michael Merritt, Terry Burlee, Kathy DeMass, Dan Durocher, Mary Krehling, Rosemary Seymour, Marie Smith, Paul Statskey

All Present

Meeting called to order: 6:00 PM

Opening Prayer: Pastoral Council Prayers and Faith Sharing led by Kathy

February Meeting Minutes

- Draft minutes were distributed via email for adds, changes, deletes on February 16, 2021.
- Motion to accept the minutes by Paul, seconded by Mary on February 22, 2021.
- Posted to CCBT website February 22, 2021.
- Emailed to the Council, Mary DeLisio, Mary Capone and Bev Dulmage on February 22, 2021.

Agenda Review (Adds, Changes, Deletes)

Masstimes.org and Dynamic Catholic Book Program

New Business

DOR/Parish Event Information

- Events that come from DOR have not been in the bulletin (ex: Desert Days at Notre Dame, retreats). Father Mike noted there are numerous events communicated by DOR, so the question becomes what events we want to see published in the bulletin. Father will follow-up with Mary D. to see how this was decided in the past.
- Parish events have also been missing from the bulletin (ex: Blessing of the Throats, burning of palms, bible study, important meeting dates (ex: Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Building and Grounds, Cemetery). Father noted part of this comes back to the communication issue, which is being rectified.
- Call the office if there is something you want in the bulletin. You can also contact Brian by 10 am on Tuesdays with bulletin submissions (CSJ.Bulletin@dor.org).

CCBT Parish Picnic

- Mary Capone suggested there should be a Parish picnic this year. Mary D. reserved the cabin at Fair Haven State Park for Sunday, July 11, 2021. At this point in time there is an 80 person limit, but this could change.
- In the past, Men's Group did the cooking and parishioners brought a dish to pass. Paul will check with the Men's Group about cooking. There are many things to consider related to serving of food due to the pandemic, but this can be worked out as planning progresses.
- Committees need to be formed to plan the picnic once we find out if there is parishioner interest. The council members will talk to parishioners to gauge the interest, and we will have further discussion at the April 8 council meeting.

Old Business

“Never the Same: How the Pandemic is Changing Parish Culture” Meeting

- One recommendation is that Pastoral Councils read the book *Pastoral Guide to Opening your Parish*. There are some copies at the office. Mary C. is supposed to order the book, but Father will try to get us copies for the next meeting, if not sooner.
- Another recommendation is that every parish have an updated parish directory, which we are currently working on as we update the parish census.

- There is information on the DOR website related to the reopening of parishes.

Financial Reporting

- Current CCBT counters have been retrained. They should be cross checking each other and paying close attention to where the donations should be deposited.
- Currently credit cards cannot be used for parish donations because we do not have EFT.

Communication

- Mary D. tendered her resignation effective in June, 2021, but it could be sooner depending on circumstances. Linda (office volunteer) will also be leaving. Initially the thought was to have Lissette and Kathy take over Mary's duties, except for the Parish Soft data entry as they are unfamiliar with that. Diane G. from SJW would be willing to do this for CCBT.
- Money is budgeted for a CCBT secretary, so this is a better option. Finance Council is onboard with this decision. Lissette and/or Kathy will act as a back-up if the need arises.
- There will be a meeting on March 24 @ 11:30 to discuss office needs and secretary responsibilities. The position will be posted in the bulletin after this meeting. The hope is to hire someone from the CCBT parish. Council members should communicate the need to see if anyone in the parish is interested. If there is no local interest, the position will be posted with DOR.

CCBT Parish Pastoral Council Membership

- Terry checked with Tom and he is not interested in serving at this time. There is no immediate need for additional members. If someone expresses interest it would be up for discussion.
- Recruitment for new council members would normally occur in the Spring. Future planning is important so announcements will be made at Masses and entries will be put in the bulletin in May/June. We can informally ask people we think might be interested in serving next year.
- A procedure needs to be in place for recruitment of new members. Rosemary has been working on a draft document of Meeting and Membership Guidelines. Discussion will continue at the April 8 meeting.

2020/2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal

- Father is finalizing a letter to parishioners. A widespread mailing will occur at the end of March.
- Paul and Kathy addressed the parish in January. Kathy and Father F. each wrote a bulletin entry. There was a slight increase in donations (53 to 59 in two months). Kathy plans to write another bulletin entry.
- DOR sent a mailing to those who gave last year but have not yet given this year.
- Suggestion was made to contact the 59 who have given and ask them to give \$100 more but the goal is to increase the number of people who donate.
- Paul will speak about CMA to parishioners at the 8:30 Mass on March 26.
- A few weeks after the mailing, it will be decided if phone calls should be made to those who have not donated. Some council members are uncomfortable making phone calls to parishioners asking them to donate.

Joint Bulletin with SJW Parish

- The bulletin samples we looked at were quite different. Brian's sample had the two churches separate, while the bulletin from St. Maximilian Kolbe & St. Katharine Drexel integrated the parish information, which is what is preferred. Brian has started to integrate St. Joseph the Worker bulletin with CCBT (ex: Mass intentions, prayers for those who are ill).
- Becoming one parish will not occur for a couple of years. The bulletin will be one way to share resources but does not mean we are one parish. This is a way to reflect that we are working together.

- As we progress Brian will integrate the events at the churches. Father and Brian are working on how the bulletin will be restructured. Father Mike will share the bulletin from St. Maximilian Kolbe & St. Katharine Drexel with Brian, so he has an idea of the integrated format.
- SJW Pastoral Council has not yet been presented with the information about a joint bulletin. It will be discussed at their next meeting.

Parish Census

- Marie and Kathy will schedule a meeting with Mary D. to gain a better understanding of Parish Soft data.
- Updating the parish census will be an efficient way to update our parish directory, which was a recommendation made at the “Never the Same: How the Pandemic is Changing Parish Culture” Meeting.

Agenda Additions

Inaccurate Mass Times on the Web

- Masstimes.org and DOR.org
 - The Masses for our churches, as well as many other parishes, are inaccurate on both websites. Marie will contact both to report accurate Mass times for CCBT. In the future this will be the responsibility of the parish secretary.

Mass Reservations for Easter

- A ticket/reservation will not be required to attend Easter Masses at CCBT based on Christmas attendance. St. Joseph the Worker requires a reservation.

Dynamic Catholic Book Give-away Program

- Books can be purchased for \$1 each if you purchase 250 copies. The recommendation is to give them to parishioners at Advent or Lent to foster growing our faith. Current book is *I Heard God Laugh*, by Matthew Kelly.
- Kathy will email Mary C. to ask if money that is budgeted for Ministries and Programs could be used for this purchase. Father would like the Finance Council to be consulted about the purchase of books. The books could also be shared with the other churches.

Personal Aspect of Mass

- Suggestion was made to resume greeting each other at Mass with a wave or smile to rebuild the sense of community that has been lost due to COVID. This should be done at the start of Mass as was done in the past. No decision was made.

Closing Prayer: Pastoral Council Prayers and Faith Sharing led by Kathy

Meeting adjourned: 7:37 PM

Next meeting: Thursday, April 8, 2021, 6:00 PM, St. Mary Magdalene

Minutes Submitted: Via email in draft on March 13, 2021, by Marie Smith, with request for adds, changes, deletes by end of day on March 18, 2021.

Minutes Approved: Motion to accept the minutes by Paul, seconded by Rosemary on March 20, 2021.

Submitted: March 21, 2021, and posted on CCBT website

Future Meeting Dates: April 8, May 13, June 10