

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF THE BLESSED TRINITY
PASTORAL COUNCIL ~ MEETING MINUTES**

**May 13, 2021
6:00 PM @ ST. MM**



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

Meeting called to order: 6:00 PM

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

April Meeting

- A joint Pastoral Council/Finance Council Meeting was called by Mary Capone to discuss the needs of CCBT, therefore there were no Pastoral Council minutes.

Agenda Review (Adds, Changes, Deletes)

- Changes to state guidelines related to capacity
- Starting Book Group, Men's Group, Lectio, etc.
- Fr. Mike's 5/13/21 email to PC with information for the meeting

New Business

NONE

Old Business

CCBT Parish Picnic

- There are approximately 26 parishioners who replied either yes or maybe to the July 11 picnic.
- The decision was made to have a bring your own picnic lunch, tablecloth, silverware, games, etc. The goal of the gathering is to re-establish fellowship while abiding by COVID restrictions.
 - Paul will bring charcoal for those who want to grill.
 - A Save the Date will be submitted by Dan for the May 23 bulletin, followed by a more detailed entry to be published in the May 30 bulletin. Dan will write a draft for the bulletin noting the specific details of the picnic. The deadline is 10:00 AM on Tuesdays for bulletin submissions.
 - Marie will contact Mary DeLisio to find out how we get the parking passes and will follow up with Lauren Nodine (Fair Haven State Park manager).

2020/2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal

- May 31 is the deadline for donations. Father Felicjan's letter to the parish, as well as Fr. Mike's verbal appeal after Mass were excellent and followed the guidelines in "*A Pastoral Guide to Opening Your Parish*".
- The decision was made to have one last appeal to parishioners communicating the amount of the shortfall and how we can meet the goal. The guidelines in "*A Pastoral Guide to Opening Your Parish*" will guide the writing of this appeal. The focus will be to those who have already given, asking them to prayerfully consider giving a little more.
 - Kathy will write the email that will be sent to those on the distribution list. It should be written and sent out prior to the May 22/23 Masses. Marie will send the email on behalf of the priests, Pastoral Council and Finance Council.
 - Paul will give an update at St. Thomas (8:00 AM Mass) after the email is sent out.
- Next month we will talk about what we learned and what changes we can make to meet the CMA goal next year.

Joint Bulletin with SJW Parish

- SJW PC has given their approval to combine the bulletin. Fr. Mike informed us that the person who had come forward to be our new Admin. for BT has decided not to pursue the position and that

Lisette is going to step down from her position as Pastoral Associate at the end of June. The joint bulletin will occur in the future as the massive changes in staffing have put this on hold.

- Rosemary will ask Brian to put the Eastern Cluster Mass Schedule in the bulletin and take out SJW Mass schedule.
- Discussed the need for Upcoming Events to be back in the bulletin. We would have to provide the information that would go under this category. Rosemary will discuss this with Brian.

CCBT Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines

- Rosemary will write an announcement for the May 23 bulletin to recruit new Pastoral Council members. Parishioners can place nominations in the basket labeled Pastoral Council at the back of church, or they can email nominations to Rosemary or Marie. We may put the flyers in the pews as has been done in the past.
- A suggestion was made that Zoom or FaceTime might be a possibility for someone who is interested in serving as a council member but who goes away in the winter.

“A Pastoral Guide to Opening Your Parish”

- Parish Census Update on Parish Soft list review/meeting with M. DeLisio (Marie and Kathy)
 - This has been an ongoing process over the years. It was put aside when the clustering became priority. Kathy and Marie have been working on this together, as well as meeting with Mary DeLisio. The lists have been reviewed by key parishioners from both churches.
 - Concerns
 - Some deceased parishioners have not been removed from our census.
 - Some have moved and are enrolled in other parishes but are still on our list.
 - If someone out of parish gives a check when they attend Mass in our parish they go on our census as a contributor and can't be removed for 3 years.
 - There are many inactive parishioners, but they can't be removed from the census because they are registered Catholics. They would have to send a written request to withdraw from the Parish.
 - Goals
 - One goal is to update the list for CMA purposes.
 - What is of utmost importance is creating an updated directory of active members. The importance of this is discussed in *“A Pastoral Guide to Opening Your Parish”*.
 - We plan to divide the list to make personal phone calls to non-attending parishioners to check on their status and to see if they would be interested in providing their email address so we can send parish communication. We will get more copies of the Family List (I double checked and we were working from the Family list, not the Member List) so council members can give feedback. In the meantime, we will work to remove those who are deceased, those who have moved and identify those who are active or inactive.
- Communication
 - Fr. Felicjan's April 26, 2021 Letter to CCBT
 - Father's letter followed the guidelines in *“A Pastoral Guide to Opening Your Parish”*. A question was raised about when a mailing occurs who gets the mailing and do many letters come back as undeliverable. This could be a wealth of information.
 - On-going issues (Parish Secretary, Faith Formation/Confirmation)
 - A parish secretary came and went but there was no communication about this.
 - Confirmation classes were held and there was a Confirmation and many in the parish were unaware of it. It was not opened to the whole parish, was not in the bulletin, nor did the priests know about it.
 - Father Mike's May 13 email to PC
 - The person who had come forward to be our new Admin. for BT has decided not to pursue the position. This means that we are still looking for a person, and as no one else has come forward, we are now opening the position to the rest of the cluster.

- Lisette Bricco has also decided to step down from her position as Pastoral Associate as of the end of June. Therefore, we are also now going to be looking for a person to fill this role for St. Joseph the Worker.
 - The Joint Bulletin is in the process of getting underway but has been put on hold due to massive staffing changes. Father will let us know when this will begin. SJW PC has given the go ahead.
- Where People Are Right Now
 - Dan noted 500 people are allowed for outdoor gatherings and indoor gatherings are increasing. Restrictions are being lifted.
 - The ultimate decision about reopening our parish will come from DOR.
- Men's Group, Book Group, Lectio
 - The priests need to be consulted to see if it is okay to resume. Deacon Gregg was going to investigate the possibility of the Men's Group resuming.
 - Anyone can take the lead to initiate restarting the groups. Groups could meet outdoors, in the church basement, or at someone's home.
 - The groups don't meet in the summer so we may want to restart in the fall.
- Pastoral Ministries
 - There is a need to re-establish our ministries and get more people involved. The same people do everything. Possibly have a Ministry Fair, as has been done in the past. This was set up downstairs with stations and people could sign up for what they would like to participate in. Possibly have a town meeting to discuss parish needs. Open this meeting to all interested parishioners.
 - The requirement of CASE training for all involved in ministries may deter people from wanting to serve.
 - Look over the Parish Ministries pamphlet distributed by Rosemary for the next meeting.
- Sign of Peace/Singing
 - Some want the sign of peace to return for a personal aspect of Mass, just omit physical contact. This change occurred with COVID. Give time for people to turn and acknowledge each other. The sign of peace is still occurring in some parishes.
 - Some are ok as it is currently, as the rite is optional, and it has become exaggerated by some people and a distraction in the Mass.
 - It's hard to sing without being provided words to the hymns.

Other

- We may want to meet more often as a council so we can get more accomplished. We used to have half day "retreats".

Agenda Additions

- The agenda additions have been incorporated in the topic discussions related to "*A Pastoral Guide to Opening Your Parish*".

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

Meeting adjourned: 7:51 PM

Next meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2021, 6:00 PM, St. Mary Magdalene

Minutes Submitted: Via email in draft on May 18, 2021, by Marie Smith, with request for adds, changes, deletes by end of day on May 23, 2021.

Minutes Approved: Motion to accept the minutes by Rosemary and seconded by Paul.

Submitted: May 29, 2021 and posted on CCBT website

Future Meeting Date: June 10 (last meeting of 2020-2021)