

Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity Pastoral Council Minutes

April 20, 2023

Present: Fr. Michael Merritt, Mary Krehling, Dan Durocher, Jill Lee, Paul Statskey, Eileen Bielemeier, Cathy Immerman, Karen Kaindl

Absent: Fr. Felician Sierotowicz, Kathy DeMass

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. following an opening prayer led by Cathy Immerman

Old Business

Pastoral/Parish Ministries

- Men's group met for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic on March 27 and discussed St. Paul. The next meeting will be on April 24. The group was pleased with the turnout and pizza dinner.
- Book group finished the book and will meet again on April 21. The book group enjoyed great conversations and will continue to meet until June.
- Social ministries group is currently helping families in debt. However, the group was not able to provide Easter dinners for families in need. In response, the group is trying to connect with new families to widen their outreach.
- A Family Promise meal is planned for April 24.
- A Diaper Corner is planned for the clothing center to assist women facing troubled or unplanned pregnancies.
- Karen Kaindl has sent sympathy cards and plans to continue sending cards to those who are ill, grieving, or in nursing homes.

Troubled Pregnancies

- Eileen has contacted someone from Peace of Christ parish and they have informational cards regarding resources for troubled pregnancies. There is no geographic requirement for Wayne County residents and Syracuse and Rochester area groups and organizations were discussed.
- CareNet is still around in Wayne County and the group plans to walk with mothers.
- Eileen Bielemeier shared brochures and business cards from agencies. Paul Statskey and Rosemary Seymour have assisted Eileen in her efforts.

Future Planning Committee/Merger

- A meeting was held on April 13 to discuss town hall meetings. The next step is to figure out which churches in the cluster will have to go to non-use in order to have one priest to say mass in the cluster because there is only so much one priest can do.
- When discussing the future of St. Jude in Fair Haven, it was noted that a retired priest could come to Fair Haven and say mass.
- The Planning Committee's Presbyteral Council will go to the diocese on May 17.
- A meeting will be held in late April to present a final proposal. Tentatively, it appeared that St. Mary Magdalene in Wolcott and St. Michael's in Lyons would offer masses on Saturday evenings, while St. John the Evangelist in Clyde and St. Michael's in Newark

would offer Sunday masses if only one priest is assigned to the cluster. St. Thomas in Red Creek and St. Patrick in Savannah would not be closed or sold, but would not offer a Sunday mass. Fr. Peter Van Lieshout will work with Fr. Merritt on the final proposal.

- Discussion was held on a plan in place in case of illness, how to transition parishioners who won't have a mass. However, most of that discussion will be confidential.

Parish Picnic

- The first committee meeting for the parish picnic was held on April 17.

Pastoral Council Membership

- Kathy DeMass called the Diocese of Rochester office and reported that there is nothing in writing about married couples serving on a pastoral council. The two members of the pastoral council would have to be present at the same meeting. However, there are concerns about married couples voting as a bloc.
- With several vacancies on the horizon, it is imperative to get advertising in the bulletin. Dan Durocher volunteered to contact Katie Childs to have a notice in the bulletin. However, asking for new members can also be done through word of mouth either through announcements or canvassing. Interested individuals would need to contact either the parish office or one of the parish council members who will still be serving next year. There will be a mission to recruit people.

Lent and Easter

- Jill Lee reported that there are three more episodes of "The Chosen" left after Easter, so it is possible that more episodes can be viewed during the 2024 Lenten season.
- Fr. Merritt reported a good turnout on March 21 for his discussions on the Eucharist and for all his discussions. In the future, these sessions will have to be spread out.
- Jill Lee thought the parish could have done a better job extending an invitation and welcoming those in the community to the planned Easter services at CCBT.
- Is it time to cancel Hallow banners?

Van Trips

- Fr. Merritt said one van trip idea could be a visit to the Cathedral for the Chrism mass.
- Other trip ideas included the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse or the Basilica in Syracuse, which Deacon Greg Kiley had discussed. This may happen in the summer of 2023.
- The shrine in Oswego is also a possibility.
- Paul Statskey has completed his case training but has not heard from anyone regarding the next step.

New Business

Organ at St. Thomas

- The organ at St. Thomas has still been stored in the vestibule. Is it time to relocate the organ? If so, this would have to be done sooner rather than later. The organ was placed

in the vestibule during the COVID-19 pandemic, but there is a need to have the organ moved due to a dwindling number of Sunday masses left at St. Thomas.

Move to St. Jude

- The move to St. Jude would ideally take place on the weekend before Father's Day (June 17-18). This will need to be advertised in may.

Vocation Videos

- There is a need to locate where these videos are filmed before they are online.

The closing prayer was led by Cathy Immerman.

Adjournment: 7:52 p.m.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Karen Kaindl and seconded by Paul Statskey.

The minutes have been sent to Fr. Felicjan Sierotowicz, Fr. Michael Merritt, the Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity Pastoral Council members, Katie Childs, Kathy Schrader, Bev Dulmage, and Marie Smith.