

CCBT Pastoral Council Minutes
Sept. 21, 2023

Present: Fr. Felicjan Sierotowicz, Fr. Jeffrey Chichester, John Balloni (Chair), Mary Krehling (Vice Chair), Jill Lee (Secretary), Paul Statskey, Cathy Immerman, Eileen Bielemeier, Karen Kaindl, Maryrose Balloni

Absent: None

Opening Prayer: (At joint PC/Finance start: Paul Statskey)

Meeting Called to Order: 7:35 p.m. (Finance Committee preceded)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sign-up sheet for monthly prayer leaders was circulated, filled in and retained by the chair.
2. A motion was requested to amend the April 2023 meeting minutes to show that a vote was taken to allow married couples to serve concurrently on the Parish Council. Eileen Bielemeier made the motion, Paul Statskey seconded it.

***Decision Made:** All members concurred; in April it was a unanimous vote in favor of the change.

3. **Ministry Reports/Discussion:** Purpose: Information shared.

a) Men's Group: Paul Statskey reported it's doing well, will meet monthly, 11 men participating. Next meeting planned for Monday, Sept. 25th 7:00 p.m. @ St. Thomas. Bob Lee had assigned Scripture reading on St. Paul and will lead the session.

b) Ladies Book Group: Jill Lee stated that the group will meet tomorrow morning after the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the downstairs hall. A bulletin blurb and invitation has been in the CCBT bulletin page for 3 weeks. Book: No Turning Back by Fr. Don Calloway. The priests were invited to come down and join the group for coffee before the sessions begin.

c) Social Ministries:

-Family Promise: We hosted dinner in July. Jill Lee and Marie Smith dined with the residing family.

- Backpack drive for the clients of the Community Clothing Center has been completed, great success, thank-you is in bulletin.

- The team (Marie Smith/Pam AuClair) helped a client financially who needed car repairs. They used Social Ministry funds for this.

- The current plan is for a Health/Hygiene drive to benefit the North Rose Wolcott High School; bins are in the backs of the churches and the lectors are to announce, and a bulletin announcement is pending (Marie Smith).

- ***Decision made:** The Social Ministry Team will be invited to attend the next PC meeting and share what they do, answer any questions. Jill Lee will invite them.

d) Caring Card Ministries:

- Discussion held regarding thanking the music team (Nancy and John Bryant) and thanking the people who helped with the move from St. Jude back to St. Thomas.

- ***Decision made:** Announcement should be made from the ambo to verbally thank these ministries. Card requested for the Bryants, but Karen Kaindl needs names and addresses to do

so.

- Discussion held concerning the expense of stamps and the expense of requesting mass intentions (\$10 each) for condolence cards or get-well cards sent. Karen Kaindl has been donating all, but as it's an ongoing ministry, this can become overwhelming.

- ***Decision made:** Kathy Schrader has stamps at the office in Clyde, Eileen Bielemeier can get them. Fr. Jeff said that the church will not charge for the mass intentions requested by Karen Kaindl for this ministry if she tells them that this was a PC decision.

e) Troubled Pregnancies/Mothers in Need

- Eileen Bielemeier & Paul Statskey identified a list of local resources/services and presented a typed list of them to PC. Jill will send each PC member the sheet/list as an attachment to these minutes upon approval. Eileen also outlined planned steps for this new CCBT ministry:

1. First step accomplished: an inventory of what services are available in our area; most located in Syracuse or Rochester.

2. Next step, communicate with parishioners and others about the information we are seeking and enlist their help.

3. Third step, physically visit these sites and assess appropriateness and suitability before any recommendations given. (Open invitation offered to join her, contact her if interested).

4. Inform our parish about this new ministry and better the communication of these resources: Suggestion for bulletin announcements, possible support from the homilists.

- Discussion was held regarding after-birth issues, caring and follow-up actions beyond halting abortion; Fr. Jeff pointed out the fallacy of opposing arguments.

f) Coffee Hour/Potluck Dinners:

1. SMM: Planned for Oct. 7th after 4:30 p.m. mass. Bulletin blurb current, and this should be announced at each CCBT mass this weekend and next.

- ***Decision made:** This will also be a "Welcome Fr. Jeff" dinner, so BOTH Saint Thomas and Saint Mary Magdalene parishioners are invited to come. It was suggested that we further talk about better unifying our two churches socially in the future. This is planned for next month's agenda.

2. ST: Successfully reprised Coffee Hour/Donuts with about 20+ people attending....possible need for more donuts discussed, but no formal vote taken. Mary Krehling would like approval to purchase more donuts for future coffee hours.

g) Planning Committee (possible future merger update): Karen Kaindl reports that the next meeting is Oct. 4th, 3 p.m. at St. John's in Clyde; this location is more central to the participants and will be the location for the meetings in the future.

h) Building & Grounds:

1. New flagpole installment: Paul Statskey received a \$500 quote from Joe Gregg Construction Co. (insured). Discussed this very reasonable offer; he just needs to run it by Mary Capone first before committing.

2. Possible expanding membership discussed. Paul and Terry Burlee work on all three of our CCBT churches, both jumping on anything that needs to be done. Currently Terry is working on fixing the railing at ST, and Paul has spent many hours on lawn care at SMM. Discussed a possible list of people to help on an ad hoc basis as the need arises. John Balloni and Paul know of a parishioner who would be a good fit to help and Paul will ask him about joining.

4. Uses for vans and proposed trips/drivers:

- Discussion held regarding the vans, two vans available, can seat up to 10 people (includes the

driver). Fr. Felicjan can organize trips if drivers are available. The two current drivers are Bob Hegemen (St. Michaels) and Dc. Greg Kiley; Paul Statskey completed the paperwork and consented to be trained, but has not been further contacted. Discussed several possible day trip destinations.

- Discussion held regarding a trip to Ithaca to view the Eucharistic Miracles display. Decision made to forego a trip there currently as it is on the same date at the Auriesville trip. Fr. Jeff has experience with this display and suggested we could procure the panels and display them here at CCBT if desired. We would be responsible for picking them up and transporting here from Sacred Heart Cathedral. No cost. Eileen will contact Fr. Pete Van Lieshout for further info.

-***Decision made:** Pending further info; we will revisit at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed Eucharistic Revival Prayer for year 2-3 of the revival: Maryrose Balloni suggested a prayer to be read by all parishioners before each mass begins in keeping with Eucharistic Revival, and also to raise awareness about the current Eucharistic Revival among our congregation. The prayers will be placed in the clear plastic sleeve on the back cover of each Missal. The parishioners will be invited to pray this together at the end of the lector's announcements immediately before the entrance hymn. Terry VanFleet (organist) will be informed; Mass will still start on time. Maryrose Balloni and Jill Lee will get copies of the prayer and put them in the books within the next month at ST and SMM.

2. The Resumption of Ushering Baskets: Discussion held with many differing opinions offered and a concern over the issue of CASE training, would it be necessary for ushers?

- ***Decision made:** Table/bench this topic until we have more time to air opinions, vote, research about the efficaciousness of the change, find out the CASE facts, etc.

3. Proposed welcome dinner for Fr. Jeff: Discussed prior (see Coffee Hour ministries). Fr. Jeff replied Yes to the invitation on Oct. 7th.

4. Proposal to get Parish Council members recognized in the parish. Discussion and suggestion for group photo with names posted on the bulletin boards at both churches so parishioners know who to approach with questions, suggestions, issues, etc.

-***Decision made:** Group photo at next meeting.

5. CMA: Some people have already received in mail. Fr. Jeff will bring it up starting this week, encourage people at Mass, and Fr. Felicjan will bring CMA poster to the churches.

6. Respect Life Month: Maryrose Balloni can contact Shannon Kilbridge at Buffalo Rd. to procure some written material/resources on Respect Life month to place at the back of the churches.

-***Decision made:** No current action required, too late in the year to do this in a timely manner; thus, next year we can organize for it earlier.

7. Advent Planning: Fr. Felicjan showed us the book Beautiful Eucharist (which includes writings by author Matthew Kelly). Suggestion proposed to gift the parish with these readings for the Advent weeks.

-***Decision made:** Unanimous Yes vote. Fr. Felicjan will order 100 books, one per household.

CLOSING PRAYER: Paul Statskey

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, Oct. 19th