

**Blessed Sacrament ▪ Saint Boniface ▪ Saint Mary's  
The Southeast Rochester Catholic Community**

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Zoom or in person at Parish Office (BS Rectory)  
April 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

**Meeting complete 8:31pm**

Attendees: Fr. John, Cory Wirt, Amy Voelkl, Jim Holleran, Liz Clarke, Dick Kilmartin, Karin Gaffney Christensen, Shirley Cirillo, Bernie Heveron, Pat Marks, Pat Morriss, Julie Miller, and Amanda Rayburn.

Absent: Chad Simpson, Fr. Mike

Finance Council: Rick McGrath

1. Opening Prayer: Jim Holleran, prayed aloud by Cory Wirt

2. March minutes

- Pat Morriss - Pat Marks appears twice as Pat and Patricia
- Fr. John – Jim Holleran's name was spelled wrong
- Cory – does Diane make erroneous revisions or how are those things corrected?
- Amy – will get changes to Katie for correction
- Pat motioned to approved, Liz motioned to second.
- Barnabas chimed in that he approves minutes; Amanda told Barnabas to go lay down...
- Minutes 100% approved by poll taken of council members

3. Check in with members

- a) Praise regarding the Easter Triduum, Morning Prayer and all music especially.
- b) Follow up on sound system at St. Boniface and St. Mary's, was working when checked by sound guy. Monitor for further concerns.
- c) Hearing positive comments on Next to New Sale set up.

4. Chair Updates

a) Vice Chair Update for recruitment/ discernment night for new members

i) Discernment night Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7 PM

ii) Review situation with Pat Morriss replacing Chad Simpson in preparation for vote at end of meeting. Poll vote approved Pat Morriss finishing out Chad Simpson's term on PPC

iii) Interested Discerners (three open 3-year term positions)

Two people per parish site have said yes to discernment night

1. Blessed Sacrament – Jessica Gaspar, Kathleen Whelehan; have not heard from Larry Garney or Walter Igharas
2. St. Boniface – Ed Schmitt, Mary Pinsky, Donnell Adler
3. St. Boniface – Kathy Little, Mario Montalbo; have not heard from Dan O'Reily. Amanda offered to reach out. She reached out to him and he declined.

iv) Testimonials 4/3 weekend- Thank you Amy, Julie, Jim, and Liz. Wonderful testimonial talks

## 5. Pastor Updates

a) Census Committee- on hold

b) Emerging from COVID:

Changes to celebration of Mass;

- i) Using all entrances and exits.
- ii) Face Masks optional, but required in social distance areas
- iii) Hoping to bring back Holy Water Fonts, but not there yet because of Covid high rates
- iv) Presentation of gifts are still on hold
- v) Collection, started to be taken up at 10:45. Lack ushers at the other places.
- vi) Holy Communion in the form of host only
- vii) Sign of Peace with no contact

Re-enlivening ministries and engagement in the parish

- i) Asked staff to give evaluation from their end on ministries, in addition to the ministries report.
- ii) Looking at ministries who have the people and the interest to move forward.
- iii) Interest in getting coffee hours back, but with the state of things with Covid, it's still on hold out of necessity.

## 6. Minimum Needs Analysis (Julie Miller)

If we were to "buy a parish" what would be the minimum needs? Rectory, Office, worship space etc...

a) Updates – no updates, but just added accessibility section for parking spaces and ramps.

b) Who can assist Julie? Will need help as it's rolled out to parish at large. Those inclined to help, should let Julie know. Amy volunteered to work with Julie on this.

b. Next Steps? Will put out a checklist so we can see what's developed in the report.

Julie asks: is this the time to roll this information out to the parish?

Cory: As we work towards transparency in the work that we are doing as PPC; suggests maybe generating a survey of sorts to encourage parishioners to respond with their "top 5 things" that they miss from pre-pandemic, along with "how do people see our future" in terms of ministries and aspects of our parish.

Fr. John, suggests wording such as; "What makes this parish attractive to you?" "What makes this parish, this parish?" ...what defines the parish for you? For example, people might say they think of the Supper Program, the Next to New Sale, for Blessed Sacrament; people might say Social Justice for St. Mary's, people

might say the Men's Club activities and weekly coffee hours for St. Boniface. "What makes that parish unique, or gives it a different feel from the other parishes"

- i) Our parish (as a whole) in 3 words.
  - a. **\*\*Note\*\*** adjectives that were repeated are only reflected once in this list. Everyone said welcoming, for example.
  - b. Welcoming
  - c. Faith Centered
  - d. Service
  - e. Social Justice
  - f. Liturgy – music and liturgy done well
  - g. Spiritual
  - h. Engaged with the community /social justice
  - i. Engaging
  - j. Community
  - k. Family
  - l. Warm
  - m. Lived Faith
  - n. Inclusivity
  - o. Progressive
  - p. Urban
  - q. Sophisticated (music/fine arts/Eastman connection)
  - r. Caring
  - s. Music
  - t. The song "All Are Welcome"
  - u. Outreaching
  - v. Catholic
  - w. Commuter Parish
  - x. Service
  - y. Diverse (not in a sense of divided or divisive)
  - z. Generous/caring/kind

Cory: These are the things we need to keep in mind as we move forward. They speak to "who we are", beyond buildings. It will be important to get our congregation thinking in terms of how they would answer the question of "who are we", what makes us special – because this is what we want to hold on to and bring into our future... not about bricks and places...a lot of history...but it's about the people...and Jesus of course.

Amy: these things "transcend the buildings".

Fr. John: We really need to take seriously the mystical body of Christ. Yes, He's 'in the Eucharist' but the Eucharist is an activity which encompasses an assembly.

- ii) What 5 items in the lifeboat?
  - a. Blessed Sacrament –
    - i. Liturgy & Music
    - ii. Lifelong faith formation – Spiritual and educational
    - iii. Supper Program and outreach – (giving tree,
    - iv. Coffee hours and social celebrations
    - v. Parish Picnic and volunteer dinner/progressive evening
    - vi. Music

- vii. Community
- viii. Eucharist
- ix. Prayers
  - x. "Life vest" so we can save anyone who is sinking
- xi. Vibrant liturgy
- xii. Community engagement
- xiii. Spiritual enrichment
- xiv. Social opportunities
  - xv. Faith formation for all
- xvi. Social occasions/coffee hours
- xvii. Music
- xxviii. Communal celebration of liturgies
  - xix. Engagement in neighborhood
  - xx. Supper program
  - xxi. Continual faith formation
  - xxii. A children's choir
  - xxiii. Children and family activities
  - xxiv. Liturgy & music
  - xxv. Welcoming gathering space
  - xxvi. Community outreach
  - xxvii. Prayer opportunities
- xxviii. Convenient and accessible Masses
  - xxix. Communal worship
    - xxx. Access to support
  - xxxi. Understanding of the importance of sacraments
  - xxxii. Tradition
  - xxxiii. Faith formation
  - xxxiv. Youth ministry
  - xxxv. PreCana
  - xxxvi. Effective lay administrators
  - xxxvii. Solid Parish Council – crew to row the lifeboat
  - xxxviii. Communion/visitation to homebound and elderly
  - xxxix. Poor and marginalized
    - xl. Sinners who grow into a sense of being saved sinners, not damned sinners
    - xli. Prayers and doers
    - xlii. Engaged disciples
    - xliii. Evangelizers

- iii) If we closed the church tomorrow, what are the physical or structural pieces you would miss? What would represent the spirit of that place – think physical things \*\* thinking of the parish you represent on council\*\*
- iv) \*\*note, several people included memories in what they would miss the most if they didn't have the physical structure/reminders of the church.
- v) Blessed Sacrament –
  - a. The wood carvings of the Apostles in the sanctuary; The Ambo with St. Boniface and St. Patrick's carved; the two Stained glass windows.

- b. Architecture, ceiling and woodwork, altar – it feels like home.
  - c. Wood carvings, stained glass window (Nativity Scene) with the sun behind it, especially at the consecration. The cross beam and more traditional crucifix
  - d. Apostles behind the altar, both stained glass windows, the memories of moments and relationships made.
- vi) St. Boniface –
- a. The altar – huge and love the stone, the angels on either side of the tabernacle from the original church that burned down, the baptismal font that was just redone, the circular glass window in the back.
  - b. The altar, the ‘memory candles’, the bowling lanes
  - c. Stained glass window in back under the choir loft, the mens club, the statue of St. Boniface outside, Mary and Joseph statues, ease of accessibility, large gathering space in back, the memories of moments of celebration.
- vii) St. Mary’s –
- a. Tiffany windows, altar furniture, resurrection cross
  - b. The stained glass, the stations of the cross, the gardens, the Dugan center.
  - c. Stained Glass, organs, gardens, architecture (pillars and arches). Symbolism that his parents left their neighborhood church in West Irondequoit and found a revitalized faith at St. Mary’s.
  - d. Stained glass windows of Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of the Annunciation. The acoustics, the brightness of the space.
  - e. The stained-glass windows, the organ, the location in the park with St. Mary of the Highway, Dugan Center
  - f. The windows, the lightness and brightness of the church, the layout that forms a cross with the two transepts.

\*\*Pat Morriss comments that “St. Mary’s is the ‘only Catholic presence in the city itself of Rochester and it would be horrible to lose that.

Cory sums up that what will be missed most is Memories, Community, Tradition, People, History. We all know that material things “do but don’t matter”. Important to think about these things as we move forward, taking a look at our facilities and ministries, emerging from Covid.

iv) Parish wide survey?

## 7. Facilities Taskforce- (not being discussed other than Thought Starter)

- a. In the past year we have made considerable progress with the Facilities Task Force. Progress has been much slower in the past few months. Here is an update of what has happened since March meeting:

- a. Mark Ocwiega has completed his walk through at St. Boniface (4/21) and will be moving on to St. Mary's to put figures on the cost to make the repairs noted during the volunteer walk-throughs. The St. Boniface report is not yet available.
- b. Conifer will conduct a walk through St. Boniface.
- b. We are in communication with Pathstone to look at alternative uses for buildings on all three campuses. A preliminary meeting will take place in early May to convey the "broad elements" to Pathstone before they will come on site.
- c. Roger Brandt with the Rochester Community Foundation has been suggested as a contact. This needs follow up.
- d. Next steps involve a review of the St. Mary's campus, then move on to the Churches at all three sites.
- e. Executive Summaries are a work in progress.

8. Vote on Chad Simpson's resignation and approval to have Pat Morriss fulfill the remaining two years in Chad Simpson's term

Poll results prove unanimous to accept Chad's resignation and approval of Pat Morriss remaining on for the two years left in his term.

Closing Prayer: Jim Holleran – The Our Father