

St. Catharine of Siena Church
4975 Boyertown Pike
Reading, PA 19606

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Attendance: Fr. Brian Miller, Fr. Matthew Kuna, Deacon John Stapleton, Michael Balla - Chair, Paul Bassler, Emmanuel Geishauser, Robert Hoffman, Lisa Ianni, Karen McDevitt, Gerald Nowotarski, Troy Rudy, Lisa Siciliano - Secretary, Deanna Stratton (phone), Michael Wertz, Michelle Wunder, Marci Zambito - DRE Ex-officio member, Mary Ann Zerkowski

Absent: Michael Lenhart

The meeting began with a prayer.

Old Business: Fr. Miller asked for a recap of topics discussed at the last meeting.

- Collecting ideas from Council Members so we can prioritize them.
- Exploring a 1st Responders Mass
- Forming a 100th Anniversary Committee
- Corpus Christi in June with explanation of the Mass
- Designating the areas that need to be kept clear for emergency vehicles at the Church
 - It was reported that stenciling could cost about \$400 and that we may want to ask Sherwin Williams if they would donate the paint
- Utilizing a phone system to notify parishioners of upcoming events
 - Fr. Miller spoke with Fr. Hoffa about the phone notification system they have at HGA
 - The cost is about \$350 per year for 5000 calls and texts count as ½ a call
 - Fr. Miller will get more information about the system from Fr. Hoffa
- Fundraising Ideas
 - Night at the races
 - Raffles
 - Capital Campaign

Fr. Miller shared the following information.

- He wants to create more events for building a stronger Parish community
- He plans to continue his Bible Study in the Fall
- He is looking for a Communication lead to improve the website, post on social media, create phone system messages to regularly send to parishioners, and to send information to Diane for the bulletin

- 40 Hours October 8, 9 and 10, 2023
 - Planning to have Vespers, Anointing of the Sick, and a Penance Service on the respective nights
 - We are waiting for confirmation on the guest homilist
- Parish Breakfasts after the 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM Masses
 - Starting in September 2023
 - We need a coordinator to recruit and schedule groups to serve the breakfast
 - A core group to cook every month was suggested
 - The breakfasts could be served and cleaned up by various groups in the parish who would keep the proceeds after giving a stipend to the cooks. Possible groups include:
 - American Heritage Girls
 - Boy Scouts
 - CYO
 - Knights of Columbus
 - Parish Council
 - SCS School – maybe during Catholic Schools week
 - Youth Group
 - 50+ Club
 - Etc.
 - Maybe discussion questions could be placed at the tables
 - Fr. Miller will reach out to the various groups
- Improve Family Life and Marriages
 - Put marriage tips in the Parish bulletin each week
 - Deanna Stratton and Lisa Siciliano volunteered
 - Create parish events to promote stronger families and stronger marriages
 - Invite school families who may not be members of the Parish
 - Invite a monthly speaker and live stream the event for those who can't attend
 - Host a Valentine's Mass with renewal of wedding vows followed by dinner in the social hall
 - 4:30 Mass on February 10, 2024

New Business:

- Explore a Night at the Races fundraiser
- Dinner and a movie nights
- Regular dinners including catechesis
- Contacting inactive Parishioners to invite them back to Mass
- Ways to draw people back to the sacraments
- Discussion on the preliminary feedback from the recent Synod
 - Faith formation and community building

- Bringing back the Children's liturgy on Sundays
 - Volunteers would need to meet all the diocesan requirement for working with children
- Starting a children's choir and having a children's Mass where the youth read and take up the collection
- Adding information into the bulletin about the history of St. Mary's
- Concerns about parking and the upkeep of the buildings at St. Mary's
 - Fr. Miller will talk with the Director of the Homeless Coalition about parking availability during Mass and will ensure that the gates are locked other than during Mass so cars aren't parked in the lot when it's time for Mass
 - Fr. Miller is getting a new Pascal Candle for St. Mary's
 - Fr. Miller will get additional quotes for repointing the bricks and other repair work as the initial quotes including fixing the steeples and putting up scaffolding were high
 - Discussion was had about researching local, statewide and national organizations who may offer economic assistance or grants to help restore St. Mary's
 - The Diocese must approve all projects over \$25,000
 - There was discussion about forming a separate group of people interested in saving St. Mary's
 - Representatives from the group could present ideas to Parish Council

Tabled Items:

- Script sales
- Restarting Ministers of Hospitality to greet people, give directions and identify, etc.
- Forming a 100th Anniversary Committee
- Parish Festival

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Parish Center

The meeting ended in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa A. Siciliano
 Secretary