

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 16, 2023

**Attendance:** Fr. Brian Miller, Michael Balla - Chair, Paul Bassler, Robert Hoffman – Vice-Chair, Lisa Ianni, Troy Rudy, Lisa Siciliano - Secretary, Deanna Stratton, Michael Wertz, Marci Zambito - DRE Ex-officio member

**Absent:** Emmanuel Geishauer, Fr. Matthew Kuna, Karen McDevitt, Deacon John Stapleton, and Michelle Wunder

**Approval of last Meeting Minutes:** Deferred. Lisa Siciliano will copy Diane at the Parish Center on future Minutes so they can get posted to the Parish website and so copies can be made for the next Parish Council Meeting.

**Old Business:**

- The Parish Social Hall kitchen was deep cleaned by the Knights of Columbus on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Everyone was very appreciative they spent a full Saturday working on that project.
- Plans are being made to coordinate the groups who use the Parish Social Hall and/or the Kitchen to prevent usage conflicts and to ensure the areas that were used are left in excellent condition at the end of the event.

**New Business:**

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Communication/Marketing:
  - Bob Hoffman reported the results of the survey he recently sent to members. The top item was increasing SCRIP awareness. After discussion, it was agreed that SCRIP information will be put in the Bulletin periodically. Bob is going to form a sub-committee to recommend enhancements to make SCRIP more impactful. Some ideas that are being explored include the availability of SCRIP digitally and increasing the selection.
- Facilities:
  - Mike Balla reported that he met with Father Miller to review the Facilities items on the Strategic Plan and to add new items as needed.
    - Mike is going to tour the Convent to assess what is needed with that building and he will make recommendations afterward.
    - Another estimate is being obtained for the work needed at St. Mary's.

- The boiler at the Church is being checked.
  - The sign at the entrance to the Church is being changed to update Mass times. A new sign may eventually be needed.
- Faith/Spiritual:
  - Deanna Stratton and Lisa Ianni reported that they met with Father Miller to prioritize committee initiatives. The committee is very active and has met twice since the last Parish Council meeting and will be meeting again September 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Marriage and family reflections are being published in the weekly Bulletins.
  - Rob and Julie Wright volunteered to be the monthly “Breakfast after Mass” liaisons. Breakfasts may be donuts or other cold options or hot breakfasts as determined by the sponsoring group. The Wrights will keep the monthly schedule of which Parish Group is sponsoring, make sure it is advertised in the bulletin, and ensure that each group knows to leave the Parish Social Hall and/or Kitchen in excellent condition at the end of each breakfast.
    - September 17<sup>th</sup> - sponsored by the American Heritage Girls and Boy Scouts.
    - October TBD
    - November TBD
    - December – Breakfast with Santa sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
    - January – TBD, it was discussed that this is Catholic Schools month, so possibly a group associated with the school.
  - Additional Monthly events are being planned:
    - September - The event possibly being planned to coincide with the intro to Prep will not take place since the Prep intro was moved up to August.
    - October – 40 Hours Closing and a possible presentation on Social Media are being planned.
    - November – An End of Life panel is being planned.
    - December –
      - December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00-8:00 PM – Women’s Night of Advent. Cassie Sedlack agreed to coordinate the event.
      - December 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 PM – Men’s Night of Advent. Doug McAdams agreed to coordinate the event.
      - There are plans to purchase copies of a book on the Eucharist to give to all Parishioners as a Christmas gift and to put a flyer inside each book listing the January events.
    - January 2024 – A book discussion on the Christmas gift book as well as a Family Movie/Dinner night is being planned. The movie may be from Formed and will be related to the Eucharistic. The committee hopes to offer adoration to attendees.

- February 2024 – A Marriage event is planned for Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup>. The 4:30 PM Mass will include a renewal of wedding vows ceremony followed by dinner in the Parish Social Hall.
- Future events: The Committee is looking at various Mission speakers, developing more events for families with children of various ages, and an outdoor movie on a jumbo screen in Spring or Summer 2024.
- Fundraising:
  - We still need a Chair for this committee.
  - Bob Hoffman reported that a Knight at the Races fundraiser is being held on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Posters were created and are being put up to advertise the event. Tickets are being sold after Masses as well as at the Parish Center. The Knights are accepting donated desserts to sell at the event.

**Other business:**

- Father Miller reported that the planned 40 Hours closing date in October needs to be changed to accommodate replacing the sound system at the Church. A new date will be announced once it had been selected. He also indicated he is looking into hiring a Communications Director and will be discussing that with the Finance Committee.
- Mike Balla is forming a Nominating Committee and is looking at the By-Laws to see if they need updating.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Parish Center.

The meeting ended in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa A. Siciliano  
Secretary