

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Attendance: Fr. Brian Miller, Michael Balla - Chair, Paul Bassler, Lisa Ianni, Karen McDevitt, Lisa Siciliano - Secretary, Deanna Stratton, and Michael Wertz

Absent: Emmanuel Geishouser, Robert Hoffman – Vice-Chair, Fr. Matthew Kuna, Troy Rudy, Deacon John Stapleton, Michelle Wunder, and Marci Zambito - DRE Ex-officio member

Opening Prayer: Fr. Miller

Approval of last Meeting Minutes: Approved.

Old Business:

- **Nominating Committee:** Paul Bassler, Lisa Siciliano and we still need a 3rd member.
- **Revision of ByLaws:** The ByLaws are being circulated to the council members so we can discuss at the next meeting if any changes or additions are needed other than updating who the current Council members are.
- **Communications Director Status:** Deferred to the next meeting. There was brief discussion about exploring what apps or programs there are to better communicate with Parish families. Further discussion will be held after options are researched.
- **Social Hall Use Procedures Update:** We need to closely reexamine who uses the Church and Rectory meeting spaces and when so that all groups can properly be noted on the calendar for when all events are held at the Church.
- **Fundraising Chair:** Robert Hoffman had been helping with this but needs to step down at this time. He ran the recent Knight at the Races event. The Nominating Committee will recommend a replacement chair.
- **Committee Updates:**
 - **Facilities:** Mike Balla reported that his subcommittee has 5 members and has met once so far. They are gathering ideas for what work needs to be done so it can be prioritized. The committee has been working on the following: getting quotes for repairs at St. Mary's; getting approval to repair the concrete joints at St. Mary's; working with Beth Pawlik to coordinate volunteers to keep outdoor sacred spaces beautiful; coordinating a lawn cutting schedule; looking at the boiler at the Church to ensure it's working well; working on changing the Mass Times on the sign at the entrance to the Church; looking into options for getting a new sign for the Church to better display Mass Times, including checking to see

if a permit may be needed; getting quotes to repave the parking lot at the Church once construction on the Rectory is complete; making temporary cold patch repairs to the parking lot in the meantime; and looking into whether the lighting outside the Church may need any changes. There was discussion about preserving key parts of the Chapel in the event it's no longer in use.

- **Faith/Spiritual:** Deanna Stratton reported that the subcommittee met and is working on the following: donut Sundays each month; helping with the Christmas Boutique; Women's Advent evening on December 3rd; Men's Advent evening on December 10th; all Council members hosting a table at the Advent evenings; a Christmas book gift for all our parish families, including the shut-ins; 40 hours in January; small group book discussions; possibly dinner and a movie; February renewal of wedding vows with Mass on Saturday Feb. 10th at 4:30 PM followed by dinner; and working on selecting a date for a Spring/Summer parish picnic. There was discussion about restarting Sunday School for 3-5 year olds; and having periodic dinners for small groups of new Parish families with the Pastor or deacons as well as a member of Parish Council.

New Business:

- Father Miller shared information he received at the recent Council of Priests meeting regarding a Catholic Leadership Institute program called Next Generation Diocese. The free diocesan program will be offered to several parishes with full on-site support; to another group of parishes via live zoom sessions; and to all parishes by watching the webinars. The program provides support for the Diocese, guidance for the Priests, and helpful resources for the Parishes. Father Miller will find out more information at the next diocesan meeting of priests coming up soon and he will report on how St. Catharine may be able to participate in this initiative at a future meeting.
- There was discussion about adding a member from St. Catharine's School to Council to replace a former member who is no longer able to serve on Council. Father Miller will reach out.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Parish Center.

The meeting ended in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa A. Siciliano
Secretary