

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Attendance: Fr. Brian Miller, Michael Balla - Chair, Paul Bassler, Lisa Ianni, Karen McDevitt, Lisa Siciliano - Secretary, Deacon John Stapleton, Deanna Stratton, Michael Wertz, Michelle Wunder, and Marci Zambito - DRE Ex-officio member

Absent: Fr. Matthew Kuna and Troy Rudy

Opening Prayer: Fr. Miller

Old Business:

- **Nominating Committee:** Mike Balla noted that the members are Paul Bassler, Lisa Siciliano and Michael Wertz. The Vice-Chair position is currently open and we may want to consider adding a member from St. Catharine's School.
- **Revision of By Laws:** The prior PDF document was converted to Word and modified to change the signatories and date. No additional changes were made at this time. It was signed.
- **Communications Director Status:** Father Miller hopes to have someone for this position soon.
- **Catholic Leadership:** Marci Zambito updated about the Parish wide survey being done beginning Ash Wednesday. The surveys can be completed on-line or on paper. We will encourage full participation by Parish members. Notices will go into the Bulletin, be posted on Tabella, and be distributed at the School and the Prep program. Father will mention the surveys during Masses. Tables may be set up in the back of Church the weekend of 2/17 and 2/18 to answer questions people may have on their way out of Mass. We may have tables set up at Church on the weekends in early March to assist people with completing the surveys. The survey link will be shared closer to Feb. 14th. Father Miller reported that he completed the self-assessment the Priests were asked to do. Survey results will be presented to the Parish sometime after the survey deadline.
- **Advent Reflection Nights:** Deanna reported that about 136 women and 50 men attended the respective Advent Nights of Reflection. The feedback was very positive and plans are being made to hold these again next year.

- **New Members Brunch:** The first brunch for new members went very well. Father Miller and a few members from Parish Council attended along with the newly registered families. In addition to a nice meal, the new members got to introduce themselves and learn what our Parish has to offer. The next brunch is tentatively scheduled in May 2024.
- **Advent Bulletin Handouts:** Father Miller worked with other local Priests to coordinate a Berks County schedule for adoration and confession and to identify which churches on which days, and at what times. Those handouts will be in the Bulletin.
- **Lenten Event:** A Lenten event hosted by the Diocese will be at St. Catharine's on Monday March 4, 2024. Rob Johnson will be the speaker.
- **100th Anniversary Committee:** Father Miller is forming a 100th Anniversary Committee to coordinate an entire year of special events at St. Catharine's in 2025. The Parish was founded Dec. 16, 1925 and the first Mass was celebrated on December 20, 1925. April 30th, 2025 will be the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the current Church. That is a Wednesday in 2025, so we may have a special Mass at 4:30 on April 26, 2025 followed by a reception in the Social Hall. Bishop Schlert is scheduled to be here to celebrate Mass on May 18, 2025. Ideas were discussed for Parish sweatshirts, Christmas ornaments and a Parish cookbook. We may ask for 100th anniversary logo submissions (1925-2025). A special 40 Hours is being planned for 2025 with former St. Catharine's Priests being invited as the homilists. Karen McDevitt and Marci Zambito will be two of the committee members. We hope to have a summer picnic or parish festival as part of the anniversary celebrations. Anyone having historic photos related to St. Catharine's, please get them to Father Miller.
- **Rectory:** Construction of the new rectory is going well and renovations have begun at the Church. The target date for move in and relocating the Parish offices is sometime in April.
- **Eagle Scout Project:** There was discussion about what project a member of the Youth Group could do for the Church to earn his Eagle Scout rank. Ideas included upgrading the bathrooms at the Church and improving Church signage. The young man will work with Father Miller and Mike Balla to coordinate the project.

Committee Updates:

- **Communications:** No report.
- **Facilities:** Mike Balla reported that:
 - He did a walk through with Mrs. K to see how the space and materials could be used and is consulting with others to plan to renovate the space.
 - Better signage for the new location of the Church Offices, deliveries, etc. will be put in place at the Church. A new Mass schedule sign is also being looked into to replace the old one at the entrance.

- Mowing and garden bed maintenance schedules are being put in place. Beth Pawlik is assisting with that.
- Parking lot paving quotes are being obtained since the construction will be completed soon. The parking lot will likely be done in two or more segments to not disrupt parking for Church and other events held at the Church.
- **Faith/Spiritual:** Deanna Stratton reported that:
 - Due to the bad weather not as many Epiphany kits were distributed as hoped for. They can still be obtained to bless your house. Unused kits will be saved to distribute next year.
 - Book reviews of “Beautiful Eucharist” went well. Leftover books will be distributed to new Parishioners and at the Lenten Fish Fry’s. The next book may be “33 Days of Eucharistic Glory” by M. Kelly. Programs on Formed were also discussed.
 - Dinner and a movie “Might Macs” is February 3rd. Father Miller will make popcorn and there will be a free dinner of chili and mac and cheese. Encourage attendance.
 - On February 10th there will be a renewal of wedding vows with Mass on Saturday at 4:30 PM followed by dinner in the Social Hall. Catering by Vincenzo’s, \$40 per couple plus a bar sponsored by Father Miller. Babysitting can be provided if needed. Encourage attendance.
 - Donut Sunday on 2.11.24 will be sponsored by CYO Basketball. Donuts and fruit will be served. For 2025 we are looking into serving Fastnachts just before Lent begins.
 - Children’s liturgy may have one coordinator but we’d like one additional coordinator.
 - The committee is working with father Miller on a Lenten study on moral teaching of the 10 Commandments and question and answer sessions.
 - Sessions on making palm crosses and a rosary making class are being planned. The committee is also looking into having volunteers to lead a Rosary before
 - Plans are being made to encourage Parish members to attend the Priest Ordination being held June 1, 2024 to support Deacon JV and the four other men who are scheduled to be ordained.
 - Plans are being made to have a Parish night at the theater after the Cabrini movie is released on 3.8.24.
 - Discussion are underway for reviving the Stewardship fair, possibly on Good Shepard Sunday.
 - Lisa Ianni will post an announcement for the next Chrism Mass at the Cathedral so more parishioners may attend.
 - There was a discussion about sending flyers to local residents to encourage attendance at Church.

- **Fundraising:** No report.

New Business:

- Father Miller presented a list of events he has planned for Lent and afterward including Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent, except 3.22.24 when we'll have the Seven Sorrows of Mary and be accompanied by Bev McDevitt's group for music; a confession schedule for St. Catharine's and St. Mary's; a list of local Penance Services at HGA, St. Catharine's, and St. Ignatius; activities such as the Fish Fry's, Crab Cake dinner, Catholic Q&A, and moral teaching sessions; and a schedule for the Easter Triduum, a Divine Mercy Service, JV's first Mass after Ordination, and a Corpus Christi Procession.

Blessing: Father Miller gave a blessing to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa A. Siciliano
Secretary