

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 21, 2024

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

Absent: Fr. Matthew Kuna, Troy Rudy, and Michelle Wunder

Opening Prayer: Fr. Miller

Old Business:

- **Parish Survey - Catholic Leadership:** Marci Zambito noted that there will be upcoming meetings to give us the survey results and next steps.
- **100th Anniversary Committee:** Father Miller plans to send communication to Parish members to explain what is needed to enhance our celebrations in 2025.
- **Eagle Scout Project:** Father Miller has two scouts who would like to complete their Eagle Scout projects at St. Catharine's. Their projects may include outdoor signage at the Church and creating a safe fire pit near the baseball field and pavilion.
- **Church Signs and Displays:** There was discussion about improvements to the indoor and outdoor signage at the Church.
- **Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee has been working to get nomination forms for a few new members and plans to share those with Parish Council.

Committee Updates:

- **Communications:** Father Miller wants to publish county-wide information about activities at the various Parishes as well as times for Mass and Confessions. This could include the use of Tabella. Father is looking into advertising options with Tabella.
- **Facilities:** Mike Balla reported that:
 - The Rectory and Parish Offices are complete and both have moved to the Church on Boyertown Pike. There was discussion about more stained glass windows at the Church, the HVAC system being older and possibly needing replacement, and some minor repairs in the Sanctuary.
 - Paving the parking lot and repainting the lines was completed.
 - He is working on getting the brick joints repaired at St. Mary's.

- He also received a quote for repairs to the convent next to the St. Catharine's School for repairs to the boiler and roof.
- There have been about 10 volunteers for bed maintenance and lawn mowing so far, but more are welcome. Mike will get a quote for hiring a service to spray 2-3 times per year.
- Mike is working with an electrician on improvements to the outdoor lighting at the Church.
- He is also looking into locating the water line from the Church to the Grotto to aide in watering the plants there.
- **Faith/Spiritual:** Deanna Stratton reported that:
 - The committee was extremely busy this past year and gave a year in review summary of activities including Donut Sundays, Family and Marriage tips in the Bulletin, Advent Nights of Reflection for women and then men, a New Parishioners Brunch, "Beautiful Eucharist" books given as Christmas gifts after Mass, Book Reviews, Epiphany/Home Blessing kits handed out, Family Dinner and Movie Night "Mighty Macs", Marriage Vow Renewal and Dinner near Valentine's Day, supporting Parishioners attending the "Cabrini" movie showing in theaters, Rosary making classes, Praying the Rosary before all Masses in May, and Meal rains for Parishioners in need.
 - Look for 1-2 Donut Sundays per month sponsored by various Parish groups/ministries. These may be after the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses.
 - Another New Parishioner Brunch is being planned since we have had many new families joining our Parish.
 - Efforts are being made to help the Legion of Mary become more active.
 - A Corpus Christi Procession will be held on June 2nd.
 - The sub-committee is promoting attendance at the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in West Chester on June 3rd.
 - The committee would like to resume having a Children's Liturgy in September. They have four volunteers.
 - The committee is looking for volunteers to be Ministers of Hospitality and for volunteers to coordinate Little Angels and Kids for Christ events.
 - A new Meal Train Ministry is being explored.
 - In addition to repeating the successful seasonal events from the past year, future events include a chili cook-off on Saturday October 26th after the 4:30 PM Mass; an outdoor movie night with a food/ice cream truck in August close to sunset; question and answers nights with our Priests; Rosaries before Masses in October; Palm Cross making classes during Lent; Eucharistic Minister training with Deacon Stapleton in the Fall; creating a plan for better Parish engagement; and adding a "Did You Know" column being added to the Bulletin.

- **Fundraising:** Father Miller would like to incorporate upcoming Parish celebrations with fundraising to sustain St. Catharine's for another 100 years. He is working with the Parish Finance Council to see about starting a legacy society.
- **New Business:**
 - Father Miller announced that St. Catharine's is expected to be getting one of the newly ordained Priests assigned to our Parish. After the Ordinations on June 1st, Bishop Schlert announced that St. Catharine's would be getting "Father JV" Van-Vien Nguyen and that his assignment will begin July 2nd.
 - There are plans to really spruce up the landscaping to make the Church look good for our 100th Anniversary in 2025. This will include trimming trees and bushes and plantings.
 - We are looking into digital message or sign boards to have near all entrances to display upcoming Parish events.

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

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa A. Siciliano
Secretary