

St. Anne–St. Catherine CPC Meeting Minutes

April 22th, 2019

Attendees

Pastor: Fr. Peter Quinn

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Joe Rossi

Senior Priest in Residence: Fr. David White

Collaborative Pastoral Council (CPC) Members: Wes Baker, Rita Biagioni, Diane Croy, Mihran Keoseian, Joe McGann, Francine McGrath, Oscar Monarrez, and Judy Moodie

Ex Officio Members & Others: Deacon Bill Dwyer, Debbie Rhodes, and Peg Hicks

CPC Member Regrets

Collaborative Pastoral Council (CPC) Members: Jackie Welham

Ex Officio Members & Others: Sue Gormley

Location

The April meeting was held at the St. Catherine Rectory.

Meeting Notes

The meeting commenced shortly after 7:00PM. The meeting began with a prayer Fr. Peter shared from Archbishop Oscar Romero, read by all attending.

Co-chair Joe McGann facilitated the meeting.

Open Session

No items,

Executive Session: Introductions plus “Here and Now”

No introduction of those in attendance was required. A brief here and now session was held.

Meeting Minutes

Members approved the March 2019 Meeting Minutes unanimously.

Executive Session: Old Business

1. Reflection on Respect Life Request and Parishioner Feedback (All)

The Co-chairs and Fr. Peter were interested to learn what, if anything, CPC members had heard about the recent letter and announcements made during Masses, regarding the pending Massachusetts legislation on expanding abortion rights. Several members commented that the feedback they’ve received on the letter and announcements was positive, and that it presented a well-balanced message that denounced

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the proposed law changes, while still showing compassion towards those women struggling with the decision or that have made the decision to end a pregnancy in the past.

Fr. Peter, Fr. Joe, and Fr. Dave shared personal experiences dealing with this issue first hand and with cases of women that have had abortions in the past. They encouraged everyone to learn more about Project Rachel which is a ministry providing support to those involved in an abortion.

Fr. Peter mentioned that he had reached out to Representative Jim Arciero to discuss the proposed bills. In mid-April, Representative Arciero held constituent outreach meetings at Littleton Town Hall. Various individuals met with him to discuss a variety of topics. Several area church groups, including members of our Respect Life Ministry, met with him to discuss their positions on the proposed new abortion laws.

Subsequent to this meeting, Representative Arciero told the public, and Fr. Peter in a personal conversation, that he felt people have the right to choose and was not changing his pro-choice position on the subject. Fr. Peter encouraged people to continue to write their representatives to express their own opinion.

In a related matter Fr. Peter mentioned a “press release” from Kathy Lynch. He will write a letter to Kathy regarding her press release and inform her that any such release on social or religious matters from a Ministry, needs to first be approved by the Pastor, and furthermore, by the Archdiocese. No CPC member had personal insight into exactly where the press release was disseminated.

Action Items: Rita Biagioni will draft a document for steps to follow for Ministry leaders regarding press releases; hopefully, this will help avoid confusion in the future. Similarly, Joe McGann will draft a formal document to outline CPC meeting guidelines including the process for requesting Open Meeting time and the CPC deliberation and feedback process. The basis for these guidelines will be the long-standing practices of the past 10+ years.

2. Reconstituting the CPC for 2019/2020 (All)

The team discussed the plan to reconstitute the Collaborative Pastoral Council for 2019/2020. Everyone agreed that the selection process should allow all parishioners to participate. In addition, the CPC will maintain the current level of six members from each church.

Past selection processes used by both churches were discussed and are expected to be used as the foundation for what the process should be today. To that effect, Joe McGann agreed to draft a procedure document for the selection process with the help of Wes Baker and Mihran Keoseian, for the rest of the team to review before the next meeting on May 20th. Oscar Monarrez will also share with Joe and team, the selection procedure that was documented and last used for the St. Anne Parish Pastoral Council.

Everyone agreed to move quickly towards filling the open spots as soon as possible, then work towards having a complete and vibrant CPC to start 2020.

Fr. Peter pointed out the importance of getting this done as he must submit his retirement paperwork in May 2020. The Archdiocese controls everything that happens after the submission, even if Fr. Peter

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indicates a willingness to continue serving as pastor for a future period-of-time. Naturally, his health and perceived ability to continue providing pastoral leadership and service will play a major role in his decision. The bottom line is we need to prepare for the potential of a new pastor being named. Fr. Peter suggested that we plan to keep the CPC intact for at least 1 year after a new pastor arrives.

On a related topic, Fr. Peter and the team stressed once again the importance of creating a CPC Directory that can be published across the Collaborative, so people know the names and faces of those sitting on the Council. Similar directories are also needed for the Finance Council, Stewardship Committee, and Staff. Debbie Rhodes will coordinate with Pat Pollock to setup 3 different days/times to take pictures of all CPC members to use for the directory. These directories should also be included in the Ministry Guide for next year.

3. Periodic Mass Count Publication Update (Hold)

Executive Session: New Business

No New Business agenda items scheduled

Final Comments: Fr. Peter / Fr. Joe / Fr. David

No final comments from Fr. Joe or Fr. David.

Fr. Peter comments:

He would like to move to start using language of “Community of Faith” rather than “Collaborative” or “St. Anne – St. Catherine” language, in an effort to continue promoting unity across both parishes.

Fr. Peter also mentioned that we need to make parishioners more aware of the future reality of our “Community of Faith”. We need to be thinking of all future possibilities. We could soon be served by a single priest. Plus, the archdiocese could decide to add a 3rd church/parish to our Faith Community. Adding parishes is the Archdiocesan stated option versus closing any parish. We need to share more overtly the truth of our reality, i.e. Fr. Peter retiring, Fr. Joe’s assignment coming to an end, and Fr. David being on disability retirement and available only when he feels well enough to perform limited service.

Along those same lines, Fr. Peter continued to encourage everyone to do a better job communicating these realities to people. Not being 100% transparent and honest with our parishioners is a cruel kindness.

He further encouraged the team to help parishioners see that having 2 parishes is like having 2 homes.

Fr. Peter proposed the idea to share with parishioners a “Day in the Life” of the priests, so people realize and better understand all their duties, responsibilities, and limitations.

As an FYI, he also communicated that the Finance Council expects revenue shortages of approximately \$ 35,000 which will require budget adjustments. He stressed the need for all parishioners to reflect on their blessings

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and deem what is an appropriate financial stewardship commitment for our faith community. Having more parishioners embrace the stewardship of giving minimizes the financial impact of a handful of large contributors moving out of the area or moving on to their eternal reward.

Closing Prayer

The meeting concluded at 9:00 PM with a prayer led by Wes Baker

The next CPC meeting is scheduled for May 20th, 2019 at St. Anne's Rectory.