

St. Anne/St. Catherine Collaborative PPC Minutes

December 14, 2015

Attendees

Pastor: Fr. Peter Quinn

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Joe Rossi

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Members: Rita Biagioni, Wes Baker, Francine McGrath, Joan Cardillo, Ken Hanly, Oscar Monarrez, Valerie Farley, Lisa Dougherty

Ex Officio Members: Sue Gormley, Peg Hicks, Denise Van Veen, Jackie Butterfield.

PPC Member Regrets

Mary Schneller, Jackie Welham, Diane Crory, and Joe McGann

Location

The December meeting was held at the St. Catherine rectory.

Meeting Notes

Dinner and fellowship began at 6:00 PM. The meeting commenced at 7:00 PM with opening prayer led by Father Peter and then the reading of the St. Anne and St. Catherine mission statements. Co-chair Oscar Monarrez facilitated the discussion. Fr. Joe also attended the meeting.

There were no Open Meeting agenda items.

Executive Session

The November, 2015 PPC meeting minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously. Minutes are now published on the St. Anne & St. Catherine websites.

Old Business

1. Pastoral Plan Update

We received good feedback from Parishioners on the draft plan. We reviewed a handout from Oscar which summarized the feedback gleaned via email, letter, and on-online. Here is a summary of some of the feedback and our discussion of it:

- The idea of a regular open meal with the Priests was favorably received by all.
- One input was around inclusiveness which is mentioned in our draft.

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- The marked-up version of the draft with specific input around Values and Priorities has some excellent suggestions.
- We agreed that some of the background around the need for the Collaborative and perhaps the history of the Parishes could be in the introductory letter from Fr. Peter.
- The writing team will use positive terms instead of ones with more negative connotations e.g. fallen-away Catholics. Joan mentioned another Church that handed out cards to people in Mass that could be given to others who don't regularly attend inviting them back. This is certainly an idea to consider.
- With regards to input on the God, Pizza, and Beer program, Oscar stressed that the draft is exactly that and it is for the future. So if we were to embrace GB&P as a program going forward it would be a Collaborative-wide initiative. The current program is out of St. Catherine's but all are invited and the person who organizes it is more than willing to help anyone in St. Anne's interested in starting a similar program. Likewise, the current Sodality is open to all in both Parishes. Denise mentioned that we need to do more to publicize all that we do in the Collaborative to ensure people know. Many may not know about all the programs in both Parishes.
- The feedback around Religious Education for younger children not being in the draft was noted. It is not in the current draft because it is going well and the focus of the plan is on middle and high school aged youth. How do we get high school youth to attend Mass on a regular basis besides just the Confirmation Masses? Hence the Mission Trip initiative in the draft. We need to get parents more involved. Fr. Peter suggested having the parents make pancakes or doing something during the classes so they are involved too.
- Sue G mentioned that the Archdiocese urges the writing teams not to put in too many initiatives or everything currently on offer in the Collaborative – rather pick ones to focus on.
- Fr. Peter commented that the feedback is valuable because people come from many different perspectives with diverse areas of focus or “hot buttons”. We don't have to nor can we include all the feedback but it is still vital to get it. We are very grateful to all who provided the feedback and Oscar will thank those that provided it.
- Oscar will invite some of the people who gave input to review the next version of the draft.

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- We will also consider having some type of a forum to review the final draft so we can get more feedback e.g. after Masses. This is similar to the information sessions conducted prior to joining the Collaborative.
- The schedule is that the draft is finalized at the end of the month. It then goes to the Archdiocese for their feedback. The revised version incorporating the feedback from the Archdiocese is then distributed and reviewed by all. The plan is for the final version to go back to the Archdiocese at the end of June.

2. On-Line Giving Promotion

Ken has contacted Vivian from the Finance Council and the Business Manager Dave about this at St. Catherine's. Dave will contact some of his peers for ideas and to gauge how we are doing relative to other Parishes. One idea is for a survey at the Masses asking people whether or not they currently donate on-line and if not, why not? It should include check-off boxes with some common reasons and a catch-all "other". St. Catherine's is at about 50% now for on-line giving compared to envelopes or cash. What do we know about the demographics of people who donate on-line? Unfortunately little but we can deduce some. Denise is the expert on this topic with a great deal of experience and knowledge. Fr. Peter sees Ken and Rita as helping the Finance Councils who are the main group responsible for on-line giving. The Parish Pastoral Council is here to support whatever way we can. Rita mentioned that St. Anne's can leverage a lot of the written materials that St. Catherine's has used. Parishioners should know that the program can be customized – one can vary the amount every week, donate to second collections, do "quick gives". Some are worried about confidentiality to which Fr. Peter said that he doesn't review the details. On-line donations remove much of the human error with cash, checks, etc.

New Business

1. Proposed Lenten Program

Fr. Peter explained that Meeting Christ in Prayer is replacing the Living the Eucharist program we have done in previous years. There are 8-10 people in a group. A small team with 4 representatives from each Parish is meeting now to ensure the collateral gets out to the group leaders and we answer any questions they have. They next meet on Jan 6.

2. Mass Counts and Times

Ken took the data distributed at the November meeting on Mass Counts at both Parishes and did some further analysis. This was put in a handout and distributed.

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He showed what the average attendance at each time slot is compared to the overall average. Mass times at neighboring Parishes are listed so we see what options there are for people. Ken recommends that we put in the Pastoral Plan that we are considering use of the Liturgy schedule to attract worshippers by presenting options at times that may appeal or are not offered elsewhere. For example, why do both Parishes in the Collaborative have the Vigil Mass at the same time every Saturday? Perhaps offer one at 5 especially in the summer. Also, is there an opportunity for a more frequent 5:30 PM Mass on Sundays? This seems popular and not offered locally. Oscar said that the writing team will consider putting this into the draft and that this topic of Mass times should be on the Agenda for a more detailed discussion in the future.

Final Comments: Fr. Peter & Fr. Joe

Fr. Peter mentioned that there is need for new members on the Finance Councils especially at St. Anne's. Several individuals have been on the Finance Council for many years and we are very grateful for their commitment. Ideal candidates should have a financial or business background or Human Resources experience. Mary Schneller is resigning from the Pastoral Parish Council due to family and work commitments. All thanked Mary for her service.

We will review a plan for a Catholic Preschool at a future meeting. The PPC is interested in discussing more details about this program and what is being asked of the PPC.

Sue G led the closing prayer shortly after 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at St. Anne on January 19, 2016. That is on a Tuesday because Monday is Martin Luther King Day.