

St. Anne/St. Catherine Collaborative PPC Minutes

February 23, 2015

Attendees

Pastor: Fr. Peter Quinn, Parochial Vicar: Fr. Joe Rossi. PPC Members: Joan Cardillo, Diane Crory, Mary Schneller, Lisa Dougherty, Joe McGann, Francine McGrath, Oscar Monarrez, Jackie Welham. Ex Officio Members: Jackie Butterfield, Sue Gormley, Peg Hicks, Denise Van Veen.

PPC Member Regrets

Wes Baker, Rita Biagioni, Ken Hanly, Valerie Farley.

Location

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

Meeting Notes

Dinner and fellowship began at 6:00 PM. Thanks to Jackie Russell who prepared the main course and to all who brought side dishes, desserts and beverages to share. The meeting began at 7:00 PM.

Co-chair, Oscar Monarrez facilitated the discussion. Fr. Joe led us in an opening prayer. The St. Catherine and St. Anne Parish Mission Statements were read. There were no Open Meeting agenda items.

The meeting minutes of January 19, 2015 were approved unanimously. We will publish the meeting notes on the St. Anne & St. Catherine websites and archive the previous monthly meeting notes.

Old Business

1. St. Anne Debt Meeting with the Archdiocese

In mid-February, Fr. Peter, Fr. Joe and representatives of the St. Anne Finance Council/staff met with Archdiocesan representatives to discuss the current St. Anne debt associated with prior church renovations. Following a presentation by a member of the Finance Council and discussion, the Archdiocese agreed to waive approximately \$24K in interest. Also, the Archdiocese waived interest on the remaining debt for a period of one year while St. Anne takes steps to pay off the remaining balance of approximately \$37K. Fr. Peter will work with the St. Anne Finance Council to prepare a bulletin notice and develop a plan to pay down the remaining debt.

2. Reception of Communion by the St. Anne Choir

After discussions with various choir members and the Liturgy committee, Kelly Clark recommended keeping the current approach for the reception of communion. Specifically, the full choir will receive communion after the congregation and the small

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group, e.g. cantor and musician will receive with the Eucharistic Ministers (EM). The large choir setup will include 1 EM for the host and two EMs for the wine.

3. Pastoral Plan Writing Team

See New Business Item 2

4. Preparing Parishioners for the New Pastoral Plan

See New Business Item 2

5. Communications Ministry/Committee Update

Prior to establishment of the St Anne/St. Catherine collaborative, the St. Catherine PPC had undertaken an effort to establish a Communications Ministry. The vision was to:

- 1) Establish an organizational capability to streamline data collection, e.g. parishioner registration, CCD registration)
- 2) Collect, synthesize and disseminate relevant information, e.g. upcoming events such as Living the Eucharist) to current and potential parishioners based upon their stated interests and preferred method of contact, e.g. phone, email, USPS)
- 3) Embrace newer technologies (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) to enhance the breadth, depth and timeliness of our ability to interact with younger parishioners, e.g. college/high school age parishioners.

While budget constraints, staffing issues and other factors severely limited St. Catherine's ability to execute this vision, the importance of this capability remained. As part of their Phase 2 Collaborative training, pastors were briefed on the importance of embracing new communication approaches as part of their overall planning efforts. In January, St. Anne and St. Catherine staff members and several PPC members were exposed to a similar briefing.

After receiving some historical perspective on this ministry, current PPC members agreed that moving forward in this area should be an important element of any pastoral plan. As time goes on, improved communication will be essential to the evangelization process. Several key points included:

- The importance of a collaborative-wide focus
- A need for clear recognition of the challenges and potential obstacles that must be addressed and potential mitigation methods
- Recognition of the multi-faceted aspects of the needed capability; for example, the technical platform/support needs versus the organizational processes and support structure
- The importance of reaching out to Phase 1 and 2 Collaboratives to gather related information and assess the relevance of their efforts to our Collaborative.

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Joe McGann agreed to research and develop a portfolio of prior PPC and Communication Ministry work in this area. At some point, the PPC and/or Pastoral Plan Team should reach out to Gary McGrath who spearheaded prior efforts.

New Business

1. Spirituality of Stewardship

Father Peter briefed the PPC and ex-officio members on his long standing desire to expose all parishioners to the concept of the spirituality of stewardship and ask that they embrace it to whatever extent possible. He stressed the fundamental fact that all that we have comes from God. Living out our Christian discipleship means that we are good stewards – that we are truly thankful, responsible and generous caretakers of God's many blessings.

Fr. Peter stressed that the Spirituality of Stewardship is neither a new nor a purely financial concept. The concept has its roots in the bible (i.e. Genesis) and is a conscious lifestyle embraced by many people and religions.

Stewardship relates to our time, talent, and treasure. The reality is that God has blessed us and continues to bless us in many ways. As noted by the Council of American Bishops, the spirituality of stewardship focuses on using God's gifts for our own benefit prudently, for the good of others generously and for God's glory ultimately.

The spirituality of stewardship forms the lifestyle of stewardship whereby faith, trust, gratitude and love are put into action. Some parishioners may be in a position to provide extensive financial support but have limited time available to support our various ministries. Others provide financial support within their means and extensive support via their time and talent to each parish and/or its various ministries. Some parishioners are able to share generously of their time, talent and treasure. Collectively, these parishioners make each parish and our collaborative what it is.

Father Peter and various PPC members/staff gave examples of their exposure to this concept through specific examples in their lives. A cross-cutting theme repeated throughout these examples was how blessed the person sharing their time, talent and/or treasure felt. It was truly an act of love and faith that benefitted them greatly.

Father Peter and those in attendance agreed that as we move forward as a collaborative that we should expose parishioners to this concept. In moving forward, we should rely heavily on parishioners, rather than the priests, to introduce the concept and show how

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it has directly affected their lives. Fr. Peter offered to provide an educational pamphlet on the concept as additional background for PPC members and staff.

2. Pastoral Plan for Our Collaborative

Father Peter is in the process of contacting potential candidates for the Pastoral Plan Writing Team. As previously noted, recommended individuals will need to make a significant time commitment for Archdiocesan Writing Team meetings. Official Collaborative meetings for the Writing Team are scheduled to take place on April 15th, May 13th, June 10th, Sept. 10th and Oct. 7th. A draft plan is due in late 2015 and a final plan in June 2016.

Several PPC members and Fr. Joe stressed the importance of gathering information from key ministries and others, plus taking steps during plan development to prepare parishioners for the future. The Disciple Maker Index Survey is one data source. Information developed in 2014 by the St. Anne and St. Catherine PPCs as part of their joint SOAR (**S**trengths, **O**pportunities, **A**spirations, and **R**esults) planning efforts is another data source. Joe McGann will attempt to collect this information. A potential third information source could be parishioner focus groups.

Sue Gormley also offered to share with the PPC a Pastoral Plan Booklet that provides specific guidance and example on how to prepare and begin writing the Pastoral Plan.

It was agreed that future PPC meetings should have a strategic focus/perspective with limited emphasis on nuts & bolts issues.

Father Peter noted that several Phase 1 Collaboratives were actively engaged in discussions on how best to use their existing assets (e.g. rectories, buildings, facilities, open land) and overall approach to providing services (e.g. masses, CCD). Moving forward, our Collaborative Parish Council, individual Parish Finance Councils, staff, Pastoral Plan Writing Team and others will need to engage in similar discussions.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:25 PM with a closing prayer. The next meeting is scheduled at St. Anne rectory on March 16, 2015.