

**Parish Mission Statement**

We are a Eucharistic community committed to the teachings of Jesus. We embrace our call to love, to serve, and to build a just world.

**Our Way of Proceeding**

We are a Christian Community embodying the principles of Charity and justice. Our deliberations presume the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through the same Spirit the good Intentions of all of us.

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023  
7-9 p.m.**

**Call to Order, Attendance**

**Members in Attendance:** Father Tom, Sister Susan, Julie Tragon, Nora Beach, Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Joyce Casey, Michael Cirino, Cindy D'Alessandro, Patty Dipre, Kelly Harmody, Rosemary Herpel, Joel Jura, Julianne Kurdila, Phoebe Mason, Lin Mullin, Megan Parsons John Tkac, Tom Yuhas, Helen Zabas

**With us in spirit:** Shawn Beatty, David Miller, Matt Nadalin

**Approval of Minutes**

Rosemary asked for approval of the minutes  
Tom made a motion and Barbara seconded the motion  
Members voted to accept the minutes as written

**Opening Prayer - Faith Sharing**

Phoebe Mason Battista      Matthew 4: 12-23  
In addition to the reading, Phoebe shared the song  
"The Summons"

**I. Updates on Renovation and Giving Tuesday**

Father Tom stated we are on schedule with the renovation. Steel is down, sanctuary wall is down, sanitary work has begun and outside is marked for where the building will expand when completed.  
Giving Tuesday raised \$11, 500 for chairs and at this point the additional funds were raised and we now have all the money we need to pay for the chairs. In addition, a donor gave money to cover the cost for all the kitchen equipment.

**II. Adult Formation**

Sister Susan shared that the Lenten Series is titled "Grace for our Spiritual Journey"  
Chose this topic from Interest Survey and the sessions will be participatory in nature.  
Four week program: There will be a total of 6 sessions counting Music in a Sacred Space and the Taize Prayer  
Will be advertised to encourage people to attend

Save the Date going out soon.

### III. Pastoral Staff Updates

#### Father Tom, Julie Sister Susan, and Matt

Julie **shared** that 21 middle school students **were attending a retreat** this weekend. The topic is “How do we use the minutes we are given to live?”

Confirmation retreat will be in March

19 families are preparing for First Communion

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade retreat is in the planning **stage**

Children Liturgy is going well but numbers are **small**

but plenty of **volunteers are** willing to serve this ministry

Sister Susan spoke on the Welcome Circle **a Diocese program**, which involves sponsoring a family from the Ukraine.

18 people came to the **initial** meeting. Another meeting will be held this weekend.

The Social Justice Committee will present two meetings in  
March on Criminal Justice for Youth

Walking with Moms is looking for people to be  
companions for pregnant women who do not  
have a support system

Father Tom stated the Day of Prayer for those who are sick  
is February 10

Eucharistic Adoration will be from 9-5:30 in the Worship  
Space

Sign up on Sign up Genius....there must be at least  
one person in the church during Eucharistic  
Adoration

**The Anointing of the Sick will take place at**  
the masses that same weekend

Father asked for our input on colors for the chairs. **The majority selected dark brown.**

### IV. Continued Conversation On Diversity

Led by Rosemary initial question “What is Social Diversity

Julianne **shared** her favorite quote

Diversity: Seat at the table

Inclusion: Having a voice

Belonging: Having the voice be heard (and honored) added by Father Tom

Barbara shared that diversity has become a buzzword for race but it is must more than race.

Kelly shared personal story of people making assumptions about her a disability.

Some people think that physical disability means mental.

Patty shared that she always embraced children asking about her son with a disability.  
Barbara shared her experience with her grandson and the diversity between the elderly and their grandchildren.

Father Tom shared that this relationship was not something he had thought about before.

Helen shared that many people in politics feel they have no voice, we need to listen more.

Sister stated that a challenge is a big learning curve when it comes to diversity.

We need to keep learning about other people's words. (I think she might have said "worlds")

Rosemary asked the question, "What does it mean to have your voice heard?"

Julianne responded, "I understand where you are coming from but I may not agree with you."

Michael stated, "It goes back to respect. You need to respect everyone."

Joel stated that he has told young adults whom he knows that he doesn't understand them.

Patty reminded us that there is a big difference between listening and hearing. Listening is hard work.

Julianne shared that a younger person will say, "I feel heard" Diversity is not a switch. It requires relationship.

Helen stated that the kids today say, "I feel you!"

John stated that if you don't respect someone you wouldn't listen to him or her.

Joyce stated that you must develop an atmosphere of trust to have a conversation.

Julie shared her experience when she had to go to the deaf community and have lunch with the people there in order to use the sign language she had learned.

Rosemary asked the group how does this fit in to our work in the church? She stated that there are people in our church who don't feel welcome.

Megan asked what equity means. Sister shared that equity means that people get what they need.

Mike stated I try to say "hello" to people when they enter the church.

Joel stated that we need to reach out and say hello.

Joyce stated that we need to know our new people.

During this discussion, it was suggested that an agenda item for our next meeting should be "What can we do to help new people feel welcome?"

#### **V. Round Table Discussion** All Members

Tom: our discussion was thought provoking

Mike: glad I got here in person

Joel: very good exchange

Joyce: nothing more to add

John: as Christians we have to be inclusive to follow Christ

Kelly: as people we have to be inclusive, small gestures to any one

Megan: nothing more to add

Phoebe: good conversation

Helen: ditto

Cindy: People called me when I was new ...On New Year's Eve some found it hard to get onto the alter

Julianne: I was facing thyroid cancer. I went to Calvary Cemetery. My third great grandparents are buried there

Julie: Don't wait until February – start reaching out now.

Nora: If we know of people who are not happy, that needs to be addressed.

Father: Telephone ministry continues now and it was used during COVID.

Rosemary: Every three years Our Way of Proceeding are reviewed. This process is not a "rewrite"

(Please review the purpose and mission found on page one). Julianne and Nora have agreed to lead the charge. If you want to help, let them know. All members are asked to read the document and send comments to Nora by March 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have no recommendations, please send an email stating that you have read the document and believe there are no areas of concern.

**Closing Prayer**

Patty Dipre

Prayers addressing Diversity

**Next Meeting**

February 15, 2023

**Opening Prayer**

Cindy D'Alessandro Matthew 5: 38-48

**Closing Prayer –**

Tom Yuhas