

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
January 17, 2023
7:00 - 9:00 pm

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.

Members in Attendance: Father Tom, Sister Susan, Matt Nadalin, Tom Yuhas, Nora Beach, Joyce Casey, Michael Cirino, Cindy D'Alessandro, Patty Dipre, Rosemary Herpel, Kelly Harmody, Joel Jira, Julianne Kurdila, David Miller, Lin Mullin, John Tkac, Helen Zabas, Sophie Voudris

Absent: Barbara Byrd-Bennett and Julie Tragon

Approval of Minutes: Nora moved approval and Mike seconded the motion.

Liturgy of the Hours: Matt and Cindy

Mass Attendance:Tom

After reviewing the Mass attendance chart that Matt compiled, the following discussion ensued:

- *Tom - Is there a way to compare these last six months to previous years?
- *Father Tom - National Trends - prior to Covid - 24% - 26% Mass attendance; now 20%
- *Tom - What ages fall away?
- *Nora - Does 20% include live streaming?
- *Father Tom - Yes; attendance is pretty poor
- *Matt - Average 10 minutes watch time for livestream; records by URL; how many are watching, like a family of 4; can see where people are watching from
- *John - What's a full house?
- *Father Tom - 550 (including choir chairs)
- *Rosemary - Are there any issues that we can point to why we have the fallout; are they issues we can address and encourage others to attend?
- *Father Tom - We can get caught up in the livestream; bigger question - 400 empty chairs, attendance gradually going down
- *Matt - 33% full

- *Nora - Is this similar to the % of people involved in various aspects of our parish?
- *Father Tom - Don't know the answer; when I look around the Church, people are also involved in other ministries. We grew up as Mass being a Sunday obligation. Regularly meant every Sunday; now it's once or twice a month.
- *John - to Rosemary's point - Demographics have changed; squeeze box down 10% over 10 years; Asian percentage - 3rd highest population in Ohio (fastest growing population with only 1.7% being Catholic.
- *David - Census - what's the Catholic population in our region?
- *Father Tom - Catholic population in Diocese has shrunk by 600,000.
- *Rosemary - Who are the parishioners we have lost and how can we bring them back?
- *David - Who isn't coming to Church and why? Problems need to be identified, then we can address them.
- *Sister Susan - Sinod - listening session on how/why they have fallen away; first year here - went through database, reached out by phone calls (older people who couldn't come to Church)
- *Father Tom - 2020 strategic plan - one of the cohorts - people who don't come to Church - big invitation, not a big response
- *Nora - We fall with the National average; glad we do not fall below.
- *Father Tom - Every religious denomination is struggling.
- *Rosemary - Reasons are all over the place; what can we do? Target - get 50 families who don't come to Church to come. Concerned if we are not proactive, where are we going to be in 5 years; we should have a real plan.
- *Helen - Age demographics - we need to look at this.
- *Sophie - Send something out in mail, welcoming phone calls - You are welcome here no matter what, emphasize openness
- *Father Tom - to Sophie's point - program, Remembering Church, if you know someone who is away from the Church, invite them; 2 - 3 week long/sessions - parishioners, non-threatening (Did not get a huge response, 40 names, letters sent out, only 4 - 5 people came)
- *Joyce - Calling people is difficult work. Julie has been doing a lot with engaging families, especially with the sacramental programs. This is where we need to cultivate.
- *Tom - Package the sermons on Youtube so more people are exposed.
- *Sister Susan - *Response to Joyce - We had a script to talk from, approach - our Church is community and we care about you.*
- *Patty - Snail mail, postcard - post and present - We are still here and we want you!
- *Tom - This topic needs more time. We will continue the discussion at our next meeting.

A Night To Shine - Kelly

- *Kelly - 200 volunteers/27 guests coming; goal 100 people; need more one on ones so they have fun

- *Father Tom - Already registered at other places; cost to individual?
- *Patty - no cost for individuals; volunteers - \$25 background checks
- *Father Tom - Post communion announcement - extend invitation
- *Kelly - Facebook, Instagram, parishioners reached out, Kelly's mom talked with Solon schools
- *Patty - Hattie Larlham has 2 group homes in Solon
- *Sister Susan - Metzenbaum in Chesterland
- *Joyce - Surrounding Churches - have committee members contacted them? Flyers? Send posters to them.
- *Sophie - Group at school; is this a Church sponsored event?
- *Father Tom - Is there a publicity committee?
- *Kelly - There is no publicity committee.
- *Father Tom - 27 attendees would be good for the first year

Catholic Extension Follow-up: Father Tom

*Father Tom and Chuck and Rita Maimbourg will be traveling to Puerto Rico on February 6 -9 to look at some parishes and see what the needs of the people are.

Pastoral Staff Update:

Sister Susan:

- *There was a tremendous response to the Bible study (37 people). It starts tomorrow. *
- *People are signing up for the Interfaith get-togethers.
- *Welcome Circle - wrapping up; family is launched and on their own; on assistance from the government to sponsor another family. Tutor is needed for Natalie in Microsoft Word/Excel.
- *Social Concerns Commission - meets next week; information on how to have civil discourse on topics during election
- *Rosemary asked why we are not doing anything with the Jewish people and a synagogue. A dozen people have asked her about this. We need to be sensitive.
- *Patty reminded everyone that Father Tom sent an article out.

Matt:

- *Burning River Brass - almost 100% full house!
- *Publicly thanked the choir for Christmas; couldn't have a rehearsal because everyone was sick; grateful for the work they do!
- *Book discussion - small group but attuned group
- *Looking forward to Lent and Easter

Father Tom:

*Lenten Parish Mission - March 3, 4, 5 - Michael will be talking about the sacraments of initiation; he will also be talking at all the Masses the weekend of March 2 and 3.

*Punch list - getting some of the things done - sidewalks out front can't get done now because it needs to be above 50 degrees to pour cement.

*Nora - Will the bell be always lit? Yes, there is a sensor - dusk to dawn.

*Spring - there will be 2 lights that will shine up to the bell tower.

Round Table Discussion: Led by Tom

*Lin - 2 years ago, trees fell on the house; finally, got back into the house; God moved me out of the way 3x before the tree fell

*Joyce - Meeting new parishioners, PPC should have been invited. Pictures of the new parishioners so we can get to see them and know them. Sister Susan said their pictures are on the TV. The sermons are wonderful!

*Julianne - health issues, appreciate prayers

*Mike - Blue Ribbon people for A Night to Shine

*Helen - Jesus and The Jewish

*John - looking forward to A Night to Shine, it's exciting and going to be great

*Nora - excited to be here, treatment is working, prayer warriors and their power of prayer

*Sophie - motivate myself to read Pope Joan

*Patty - Amen after homily? Father Tom says it's not entertainment. Thank you for the sermons, they hit home! Matt says going out into the world is our way of spreading the message.

*Kelly - Confirmation retreat is this weekend, prayers; grandmother is staying strong

*Tom - Thank you for coming out in the cold and for the active way you keep in touch!

*Cindy - May the New Year bring everyone good health and continue to make us all good disciples.

Closing Prayer: Rosemary

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 21

Closing prayer for the February meeting - Joyce