

St. Athanasius Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2023

The meeting began at 4:00 pm with our opening prayer.

Present: Fr. Portelli, Carleen Short, Tony Gennetti, Terri Koehler ; **Absent,** Marleen Moll, Shannon Haines, Bob Guzowski.

Guest: Chaplain William Dyke from the Clare County Sheriff's Department gave a presentation about his "Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry," a 501-(c)(3) organization. The ministry's primary purpose is evangelism and discipleship among inmates in our jail. They bring together inmates, chaplains, and lay-workers in the ministry of God's Word, with a goal of rehabilitation in the name of Jesus Christ.

-Asking for monetary support as he must raise \$30,000/yr to sustain this ministry.

3 other churches in Harrison and 2 in Clare are currently assisting.

-He explained the ministry and the Celebrate Recovery program.

-Our jail has a capacity of 176 inmates, consisting of both men and women.

Currently there are 125 housed of which 20 are women.

We will add this ministry to the prayers of the Sodality group and our prayer list, share the information with our Christian Service Commission, seek parishioners to be trained in jail ministry and possibly provide reading material for the jail library.

Review of joint STA & SHP meeting of January 10, 2023-Motion to accept by Carleen, 2nd by Tony, minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Alice Training/ Church Security update-2 classes scheduled one has been held at STA with about 25 attendees. We will schedule another class that will meet in the evening after Lent. We are considering opening it up to the wider community.

Evangelization Outreach-Angie Benincasa is spearheading this for both parishes.

The initial focus will be on "Bringing former Catholics home." She has suggested the St. Monica prayer to be prayed by both parishes.

Also, a mailing to parishioners that have not been attending Mass and including a prayer card or other "gift".

Father shared other upcoming evangelization events that are in the planning phase.

Women's mini-retreat the 1st Saturday of Lent -Speaker Keri Tarrant

Religious music concert-June-Organizer Donna Wiesner

Parish Mission - July-TBD

Harrison Street Fair-August 25 & 26 tentative

Father will send us a link to do a "Google" review on STA and SHP parishes. He says that this is a wonderful way to evangelize and draw people to our church. It is an "evergreen" way because it remains there forever.

CMA update-\$7,300 short of our goal with 35% participation. Terri will speak with Sandy about doing a special presentation after Mass using the thermometer that is in the narthex as a prop. Father may re-play the Bishop's message from the start of the campaign again as well.

Greeters/Ushers-Richard Gostomski is heading up this ministry. He has 10 volunteers. Father gave us 2 more names for Richard as well. Father mentioned that they should open the doors for people and dress appropriately in all seasons.

Welcoming Ministry-Linda Barylski was recommended for this ministry. Father will speak with her and give her guidelines.

New Business:

Review and update Strategic Plan-Read and discuss at next meeting

Other Business:

Inclement weather policy-updated version to indicated that at noon, after evaluating the weather conditions, decide if afternoon activities should also be canceled.

Discussion of future renovation of the sanctuary area and how it may be funded.

Action Items:

1. Schedule an evening ALICE training after Lent
2. Do a presentation after Mass to keep momentum to complete the CMA campaign.
3. All PC members to do a Google review of STA and SHP and ask others to do likewise. Father will send us the link.

Next Meeting: May 10th

The meeting closed with prayer at 5:50 pm