

St Athanasius & Sacred Heart Parishes Pastoral Council Joint Minutes

January 18, 2022

The on-site/Zoom meeting was called to order at 6:25 pm. Opening Prayer by Fr.Portelli.

Members Present: Father Portelli

SHP: Dave Poxon z, Mark Harris, Dave Greaves, Melissa Esiline, Renee Benser-Swanstra z, John Lariviere, Katy Kazanski and John Cantalin z Absent: John Coleman

STA: Terri Koehler, Bob Guzowski, Carleen Short, Mary Winters, Shannon Haines. Absent: Sue Tazzia and Terry Fulton.

SHP: Reviewed and approved the minutes from October 12, 2021, meeting.

STA: Reviewed and approved the minutes from October 6, 2021, meeting.

Updates:

- **Forming Intentional Disciples Fr.–** Father talked about the need for our parishes to reestablish an outreach program to bring members back to the church. Due to covid pandemic, Catholics have become used to attending virtual mass and many have stopped coming to Sunday mass. Our recent discussions on the declining church attendance over the years makes it more urgent that we come up with a strategy to counter this trend and bring back Catholics to Sunday mass. Father recommended James Mallow's book Divine Renovation and the Divine Renovation Guidebook which can guide a parish to accomplish this task. Father suggest getting people together to review the book on forming disciples and create next steps.. Matthew Kelly's "Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" book is also an excellent source of information.
- **Stuff the Bus – Fr.** Diocese of Saginaw had 7-8 busses supporting the Right to Life program before Covid made the trip impossible to continue the program. As covid concerns subside, members discussed different ideas how we can sponsor a bus trip to Holy Family Church, or a trip to Cross in the Woods, in Indian River. Other suggestions a day trip in the summer to Shrine of St. Joseph in Grass Lake. Marion Peace Center was also mentioned as a possible day trip. All were encouraged to think about ways to cultivate more participation and interest/fellowship for both parishes.
- **October Counts – Fr.** Both parishes are in Vicariate #4 in the diocese of Saginaw. Fr. Portelli provided the average attendance counts for both parishes. Our attendance has been coming back from the pandemic days but with lower attendance. The concern is that parishioners are getting used to not attending Sunday mass or are still watching mass on tv. Father noted that the viewing of Sunday mass at St. Mary's is down considerably. He noted that online viewing is not a good alternative to actual attendance.

Avg Attendance	2019 CY	2020 CY	May 2021	Oct 2021
SHP	439	210	237	256
STA	171	108	114	137

- **Corpus Christi Sunday (STA) – Fr.** June 19th (also Father's Day) will be Corpus Christi Sunday at St Athanasius this year. Unfortunately, Bishop Gruss has a conflict with the date this year.
- **Disciple maker index survey - Terri:** DMI Primary Goal is to help good Catholics become holier. Terri covered a handout explaining we can achieve the goal four ways. Addressing spiritual growth pace 2. Where has God worked in your life: what can you share with others about it. 3. Younger people-attracting youth to or back to our parish.4. Becoming more welcoming/inviting. Fr. Portelli used the example how when you go to a restaurant and have a good meal, you often leave a positive review in the Google Maps app. We should think about showing people how much we appreciate our parish and leave positive reviews to encourage others to share our faith.
- **Parish Mission – Fr.** Fr. Benedict La Volpe will be visiting SHP on June 12-15th for our parish mission. The National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe is a pilgrimage site and sacred space in Libertyville, Illinois in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Fr Benedict is based there, but is originally from Australia and an excellent speaker.
- **Gladwin Fair /Harrison Street Fair – Fr.** July 11-16, 2022, is the schedule for the Gladwin County Fair. We would like to continue the tradition of having a SHP booth, usually situated next to the Right to Life booth at the fair. Volunteers will be needed. August 26-28, 2022 is the date if the Harrison Street Fair this year.
- **RCIA/OCIA/Initiation Ministry – Terri** Father Portelli talked about the importance of welcoming our new members to the church. He wants to make sure that when the parish is invited to welcome our new members, we have a much better turn out than in the past. Fr. mentioned the possibility of hosting a Holy Family - Home School Co-op in our parish center, as a way of promoting our faith and encouraging the development of Catholic families in our area.

Open Discussion:

Eucharistic Revival – In discussing the celebration of the eucharist, Fr. noted the U.S. bishops approved the three-year eucharistic revival that will culminate with the National Eucharistic Congress 2024 in Indianapolis.

Next meeting – Proposed – **SHP** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 **STA** Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Closing Prayer at 8:00 pm.

Recording Minutes: Dave Poxon with Terri Koehler

(SHPC Minutes January 18, 2022)