

Peace of Christ Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting
Conference Room at St. Ambrose Church
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Attendance: Fr. Tim Brown, Carolyn Conrow, Deacon Robert Corsaro, Karen Costello, Lola DeAscentiis, Alan Dickinson, Judy Dickinson, Ken Klamm, Jane Koch, Gail Layer, Rob Layer, Robert Meisenzahl, Sue Morrison, Eric Oswald, Fr. Robert Schrader, Mary Ellen Steele, Raymond Warth, Catherine Witner

Excused: Bob Crego and Sr. Marlene Vigna RSM

Scribe: Goldie Rogers

Meeting opened at 7:30 pm

- **Opening Prayer** – Ken K.
- **Approval of November Minutes and December Agenda/Housekeeping Items**

The November Minutes were accepted as written. The December agenda was accepted with the change in venue from St. John the Evangelist to St. Ambrose.

The attendance form for tonight's meeting and sign-up sheet for December Welcome Weekend (12/21-22) were passed around.

- **Open Forum** – no one present
- **Councilor's Concerns**

A question was raised about the property at 109 Brockley Road, Sr. Marlene Vigna's former residence. Fr. Bob indicated that the lease with the Sisters of Mercy continues through June 2020. A decision will be made at that time.

Knights of Columbus will be hosting a tailgate party on Sunday, January 5. It will be open to the parish, whatever game is being televised at 3:30 pm will be displayed. More details to follow.

Knights of Columbus donated two wheelchairs to the Center for Disability Rights last week. It was shown on Channel 8 and announced on one of the radio stations last Sunday.

The Parish Blood Drive will be held on December 27, from 2-7 pm.

➤ **2019 – 2020 Vision Statement Review**

Ken amended the Vision Statement after the discussion last month and the final version was reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Vision Statement as written.

➤ **Parish Survey**

The parish survey was reviewed and discussed. Several suggestions were made. Ken will make the changes and hopefully will have the final version ready for distribution.

➤ **Youth Report – Lola and Raymond**

Past Projects: The monthly youth report and the Monk's Bread fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus were stuffed into the parish bulletins; 21 cards were completed for our homebound parishioners; assisted Social Ministry with toiletry kits/dinner kits to hand out to the homeless at Thanksgiving; prepared "Feast of St. Nicholas Day" treat bags for the 106 students at St. Ambrose Academy.

November 24th, Suzanne Stack gave a presentation on the Catholic Social Teaching: *Right to Life and Dignity of the Human Person*. On November 25, Marty Moynihan taught about the Catholic Social Teaching: *Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable*.

Patrick Larkin, senior at McQuaid Jesuit High School, was nominated for the Hands of Christ Award for all of his participation in ministries throughout his life at Peace of Christ Parish. The award ceremony is February 4, 2020, 7 pm, at St. John of Rochester, Fairport.

Upcoming Presentations: January 5, Marcus Ebenhoe; January 12, Fr. Jim Hewes; and January 26, Sr. Donna.

The ND Vision Fundraiser update was included with the report.
CYO Basketball Season officially begins on December 7/8.

➤ **Financials/School/CMA Report**

Fr. Bob passed out the financial report as of November 30, 2019. To date, our pledges have reached 53% of our Catholic Ministries Appeal goal of \$110, 395. Fr. Bob is hopeful we will reach our goal before Christmas. Tentatively, there is an in-pew collection scheduled at all the sites. Donation for The Lights of Love tree at St. Ambrose Church have been slow this year. An announcement will be

made encouraging parishioners to donate for this good cause this coming weekend.

St. Ambrose Academy is accepting early registrations for the 2020-21 year and 18 have already registered.

➤ **RocACTS (Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society) Task Force Reports** – Karen, Carolyn, Alan, Rob

Karen

After meeting with Bishop Dwayne Royster, the Northeast Regional Director of Faith in Action Network, the board decided to adopt a new format which he recommended to increase input and participation. This will involve establishing a Leadership Assembly that will meet 3-4 each year. This group will determine which issues will be focused on and develop strategies for the work in conjunction with the task force. The Board will then focus on the governance aspects of the organization – fiduciary oversight, fundraising, legal compliance and strategic planning. As part of this transition, there will be a day of training provided by the FIA Compliance Officer, Monica Summerville, to be held sometime in January. It will be open to everyone in the member congregations as well as board and task force members. Any interested pastoral council member are encouraged to attend. More details to follow when available.

Poverty and Jobs – Carolyn

This group is in transition at the present time.

Criminal Justice Task Force – Alan

Humane Alternative to Long Term Solitary Confinement Act (HALT) will be having a legislative lobbying day on January 21. 19 people are already registered to go to Albany. Volunteers are needed to answer letters that are sent to Tocsin Magazine from incarcerated people from across the country who are looking for assistance with their cases. The team will add this as an agenda item at the meeting. Everyone present will help to reply but many more volunteers will be needed.

Rochester Police Chief Singletary has stated his officers will not enforce the newly-enacted Annoyance Bill.

Project Exile: This is not a bill or law, but a pact between the State and Federal authorities that was signed 21 years ago in Rochester intended to reduce gun crimes through tougher prison sentences. The program has since been repealed with the understanding that it was too harsh and failed to achieve the goal. A local group called “Enough is Enough” is compiling data that will identify the demographics of those sentenced in this program. Regarding the Police Accountability Board, interviews are now taking place to fill the four opening from the community.

Religious Leaders Caucus – Rob

The annual banquet was held on December 8 and was a very successful event. It raised \$14,500, which was above the budgeted figure.

➤ **Welcome Table Discussion**

Ken passed out a flow chart indicating the procedure for welcoming and registering new parishioners. Review and discussion followed. It was agreed that the first step would be a welcome letter from the parish, signed by the pastor. Ken is planning to meet with Colleen Griffith, at the parish office, in the near future.

➤ **Councilor Replacement Process – Fr. Bob**

This item was a carry-over from the November agenda. This discussion was initiated because of the situation that developed when a pastoral councilor was not able to complete his term. There were no extra nominees from the pool last June necessitating a search of previous year's nominees. Going forward, the Nominating Committee will be encouraged to have more names than the number of openings. The suggestion was made that the names of the nominees be entered into the minutes for future reference. It was noted that the Time, Talent, Treasure forms have an opportunity to indicate an interest in serving but the timing does not align with the council selection. According to Diocesan Policy, Fr. Bob does have the option to choose someone to fill the opening. Pastoral councilors should always be looking for and encouraging fellow parishioners to serve in this important parish role.

➤ **Closing Prayer – Sue**

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Next Pastoral Council meeting – Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7 pm, St. John's Church Hall

Opening Prayer: Carolyn Conrow
Closing Prayer: Jane Koch
Refreshments: Mary Ellen Steele

Respectfully submitted,
Goldie Rogers