

**Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council Meeting      August 9, 2018**  
**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. after Evening Prayer in Holy Redeemer Church.

Present: Msgr. Kevin Holmes, Deacon Chris Schmelzer, Marc Laudonio, Linda Abelman, Jayne Bischoff, Paul Kachelmeier, Karen Paschke, and Tracey Reitz.

I. Discipleship Small Group Update

Marc said they have been in discussions with the Evangelical Catholic, and they want to create evangelical groups and small groups in the Parish. He said a contract is being put together with them. Generally he said he will be the point person for the English speaking community, and for the Spanish speaking community. He said the long term vision is that by the beginning of Lent they will be able to have people join a small group. He said they will begin the first discipleship training group in October. People in the small group will participate in the small group training, and he said he will meet with them one-on-one too, and they would come into this knowing they would be asked to lead a small group.

Marc said we for sure have a one year relationship with them, and hopefully a second year too. The purpose of the small group will be to help people to grow in their relationship with God.

Msgr. said that the first small group would be directly oriented to being a small group, and the members then learning how to lead a small group. The expectation is that next fall Marc would do this again.

Jayne asked what is the content of the small groups.

Marc said essentially habits of discipleship, service, prayer, community evangelization, and generally being a missionary disciple. He said by November he will have a lot of details.

Msgr. said the small groups will also receive tools offered on how to do these things, and sharing and checking up on each other. He said this is a pretty significant part of Marc's time. What allowed us to do this is Deacon Chris is taking responsibility for RCIA. Candidate Deacon Todd is taking the responsibility of ministering to the homebound. The Evangelical Catholic teaches that every one of us is equipped to be apostolic and to be sent.

Paul asked if the small groups that are formed would have materials for study, such as the small group studies that have been held in the Parish.

Marc said no, it will be more focused on learning how to be missionary disciples, and growing in prayer and discipleship. He said we are coming together to encourage each other to grow as a missionary disciple. We would start with small groups in Lent and have the opportunity to start more groups in fall and in Lent.

Msgr. said in principle the hope is the groups will continue.

Marc said the small group leaders are making a commitment, at least for the groups starting in Lent. This is similar to what Jesus did with the 12 Apostles, and this is kind of the vision he said.

Msgr. said that FOCUS has an endpoint because people graduate from universities. For us it is more similar to our parish, where people move more often in to and out of our Parish.

Marc said it would be great to be able to go deeper in the small groups.

Msgr. said the small groups could people who already have some things in common, like young adults, men, member of the SVdP Conference, etc.

Jayne said it sounds like a way to actualize our mission as Catholics, or for Catholics who don't know how to do this.

Karen said that it sounds similar to the goals of spiritual direction.

Msgr. said that this is right directly in the mission of the parish.

Jayne asked how do we link it to those who might be interested in the parish?

Msgr. said that he is sensitive to the thought that we do not want to give the message that someone has to be interested in this. It is not a requirement of being in the parish.

Karen said that it is a great next step for people who are in RCIA.

Marc said he thought this could be a great way to bear fruit in the parish through small groups.

## II. Formation of a Prayer/Community Focused Group.

Tracey said that this is something more people in the parish can get involved in. She asked does this seem like a good model for our parish?

Jayne said that Deacon Ray had a group that would pray for people, and there is a book at St. Patrick's and at the Adoration Chapel, as well as on the website with the names of people we are praying for. She said that an email had been sent to people in the parish too about a parishioner who had died to be able to pray for them, and to know what the funeral arrangements were.

Jayne said that she had done some research on prayer request groups at other parishes in the Madison area. She said she put together a snapshot of the 10 points in the Catechism around prayer. She said she recently read the book "The Power of Silence Against the Dictatorship of Noise" by Robert Cardinal Sarah, and the book by Jacques Pierre. She asked could we put a little survey in the bulletin to ask people about prayer. She talked about the steps of prayer and what does our faith teach us about prayer, and how do we pray? She said she thinks we need to be really clear on a prayer ministry and the purpose of it. She said she went on a retreat at

Durward's Glen and got a book Sacred Intercession. She identified categories for prayer, and then took scripture and reworded it just enough to add someone's name to it. She said she has a prayer group that prays for these needs. She said this could be a beautiful thing to help educate the parish on prayer.

Karen said that praying with the mass could be done using a guide like "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass", and Bishop Robert Barron's new DVD on the mass.

Msgr. said he thinks the foundation in prayer is a really good ministry. He said it was not that widely accepted to teach formation in prayer, but more seeing who needed prayer. This is a good mission for people especially who cannot get out as much. He said he thought it could be very good to have the formation in prayer, and coming together with others to pray, and being able to pray alone too.

Marc said that prayer is really central to all we do. They can pray for the sick, for RCIA candidates, deacons in formation, marriage preparation, seminarians, youth receiving the sacraments, etc.

Msgr. said having a person to pray for is really good too like we will pray for this person for 30 days.

Tracey said her home parish started a 24 hours of prayer time period, and it really helped the parish and the people in it a lot.

Jayne said she can email this to everyone too.

### III. Welcoming New Members into the Parish

Tracey said we should talk about how we welcome new members into the parish. She said we can look at the letter that is sent out to new parishioners.

Linda said she has been sending out personalized letters to new parishioners. She said she also calls everyone two weeks after she sends them a letter to follow up regarding how they might get involved in the parish.

Msgr. said that when we go through the letter we can think about the whole process of how new parishioners join the parish and get involved. He said we can discuss this more at the next meeting, and also review the parish website.

### IV. New Pictures and Bios for the Parish Website.

Tracey said we need to update the new parish brochures too.

Marc said that we should also send a photo and a bio.

### V. Next Meeting - TBD

Tracey said we have been meeting the second Thursday of November, February, May, and August. She said she will send out an email with the dates of the next meetings November 8, 2018, and February 9, 2019. If anyone has a conflict then we can change the meeting dates.

The group prayer a Hail Mary.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.