

St. Rita Pastoral Council
August 14, 2018
Meeting Minutes-rev

Council Members Present

Fr. Tom Helfrich	Patty Strait	Joan Gaughan	Bernadette Frost
Deacon Chris Vida	Donna Ludlow	Ted Ludlow	Tiffany Scott
Jan Strait (chair)	Jerry Truitt	Bob Maladecki	Gary Grueneberg
Josephine Hones (secretary)			

Absent Council Members

Elaine Hassett, Doug Leu, Shari Luppo

A. Opening Prayer

Patty shared the opening prayer.

B. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted.

C. Approval of Minutes for the Previous Meeting

The May 8, 2018 minutes were approved with revisions. Changes made and sent to Jeannie, Jennifer & Chris for filing and posting to the St. Rita website.

D. Continuing Formation for Council Members

Deacon Chris gave out a copy of Our Parish Vision Statement:

“We strive to be confident in our faith, comfortable in sharing that faith, dynamic in celebrating it and generous because of it.”

He also referred to a selection from Peter 2:4-5. Deacon Chris spoke about using separate bricks to make a building by using mortar between the bricks to hold it together. So, it us with the Church, we cannot rely on a casualness in our faith... something more is needed. Deacon Chris invites us to learn more by reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Bible, attending RCIA on Wednesday nights or going onto our computers and looking at the Formed.org site. He also, mentioned a new program called “ALPHA” coming about in a year. Fr. Tom mentioned the Stephen ministry as well.

E. Old/Unfinished Business

- Jan is finalizing the usher’s handbook. He and Fr. Tom will meet and discuss it prior to calling an official usher’s meeting and presenting it.
- Fr. Tom will meet with Ann and Sue to discuss the parish welcoming activities.

F. New Business

The Pastoral Council needs its new members to fill the four open positions: Youth, Prayer, Faith Formation & Education and Evangelization. An orientation for new members is needed to explain these goals before the September meeting. Copies of the St. Rita Catholic Church Pastoral Council Operational Guidelines and Seven Strategic Goals (Youth, Prayer, Faith Formation and Education, Evangelization, Catholic Social Teaching, Community, Stewardship) will be emailed to new members prior to that orientation meeting. Also, a decision for a vice-chair needs to be made at the next meeting.

G. Strategic Goal Updates

Goal 1. Youth

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Bernadette reported YPOP is an after school and summer program for kids in singing, art, second language and sign language. This activity will be suggested to Leslee Hartford for our St. Rita Youth.

Goal 3. Prayer

Ted Ludlow reported that plans have been made to secure a Dynamic Catholic Speaker for Saturday, March 16, 2019 from 9am – 1pm. The Dynamic Catholic Organization will help in planning and publicity for this event. A nominal fee will be charged in advance. Also, the St. Patrick's Day dinner will be after Mass on that evening.

Goal 5. Catholic Social Teaching – Joan Gaughan, Leader

META Peace Team (Fr. Daugherty) is a program to resolve conflict in nonviolent ways. Fr. Daugherty will be saying weekend Masses at St. Rita's in the near future. Fr. Tom will meet with Joan and Marla Gilpin to discuss offering Fr. Daugherty's eight one-hour training sessions in this area; the estimated cost is \$65/person. Joan attended a diversity meeting at Queen's in Jackson; it was about diocesan leadership in racial matters regarding school sports. Joan had expected the meeting to address all types of diversity.

Goal 7. Stewardship – Jan Strait, Leader

Jan continues to plan for a St. Rita Stewardship Fair for the Fall of 2018 depending on construction progress.

H. Informational Reports from our Pastor and Deacon

Deacon Chris

- The permanent basketball hoop has been installed in the south parking lot. The parish has a portable hoop that can be moved to the area for a full court game.
- 7,000 people throughout the diocesan have committed to "Made for Happiness" – The Lansing Diocese Assembly which is planned for Saturday, September 22, 2018. The goal is for 10,000 participants. This event will take place from 9am-7pm. At 9am there will be a procession from the St. Mary's Cathedral in downtown Lansing to the Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. There will be presentations at the Breslin Center from 1-4:30. An all diocesan Mass will be celebrated at 4:30pm (there will be no Saturday evening Masses in the diocese on that date.)
- Deacon Chris attended a Global Leadership Summit in Lansing.
- Pastoral Ministry has been involved in visiting shut-ins. St. Rita is in process of making a parish list of shut-ins to visit at least 2/year for confessions. Council members asked that this announcement be emphasized by a separate box displayed in our weekly bulletin.
- Deacon Chris will be attending "Healing Day in Flint" on Saturday, August 25 with other deacons.

Fr. Tom

- The Pastoral Council is an advisory group...it is the ears and eyes of the parish to bring ideas, challenges, corrections to the attention of the pastor and parish staff.
- B.J. Hoenke has been hired as our Director of Music.
- Phase 2 of the building project has begun; it is the construction of a larger welcoming area. A drainage issue has slowed progress. Phase 3 is to build a youth room, and a St. Vincent DePaul room on the west side. Phase 4 is build another wing parallel to the current offices to allow for separation of classrooms and parish offices.
- Fr. Tom attended a JACS meeting. (Jackson Area Catholic Schools). They had a speaker from the Traverse City Catholic Schools who spoke about commitment to prayer as a

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solution to the catholic school crisis. Some of the issues of concern are registering more students, better teacher salaries, diversity of population and quality education.

I. Preparation for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 18 at 7pm.

Jan Strait will chair the meeting.

Josie Hones will lead us in prayer.

Fr. Tom will give continuing formation.

J. Closing Prayer

Led by Fr. Tom.