

St. Monica Facilitation Team
May 18, 2022

Attendance for the virtual meeting: Connie Chau, John Curran, Fr. Ray Fleming, Mary Fran Kolbuc, Meg Lute and Bob Passalugo; Guest: Kathy Garrant. Absent: Best Batchateu

1. Opening Prayer: delayed

Introduction of Kathy Garrant who is discerning participation as a new Facilitation Team member. She and her husband Todd have participated at St. Monica members since late 2021. They appreciated the welcoming nature of the St. Monica community; previously lived in Plattsburgh, NY; school Food Service Director for 22 years; has interests in food security and social justice.

2. Review and Approval of April 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes: The third revised draft was accepted unanimously.

3. Father Ray's Updates:

- **Staffing**: Health issues affect Immaculate Conception-St. Bridget's pastor Father Robert Bradler's ability to continue as pastor. The Diocese will provide coverage with a priest until June 3rd, 2022. After that date, Father Ray Fleming will be the sole pastor of the respective St. Monica, Emmanuel Church of the Deaf and Immaculate Conception Church parishes. Father Ray relates that this will be a time of excitement and challenge as we move forward.

- **Parish Finances**: Stable in spite of COVID-related attendance issues. St. Monica has reached its *Catholic Mission Appeal* goal which was higher this year.

- **Pentecost**: Will be a low-key religious event this year. Parishioners will be asked to wear red.

- **Bankruptcy** status affecting Diocese: No change.

4. Parish Ministry and Activity updates:

- **Youth and Adult Faith Formation**

• May 22 parish garden activities at St. Monica involving youth and adults

• Basketball skills camp at St. Monica in early August

• Vacation Bible School in mid-August (*Environment* theme)

• Red Wings Baseball Game in August

• Other? The prior *St. Monica Music Fest* remains dormant in light of persistent COVID restrictions. There is no discussion of other large-scale summer neighborhood activity.

- **Overall Parish ministry and activity updating**: No progress made since last meeting to update status or contact person information. *Continue*.

- **Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach Open House** event (May 26th) afternoon) will use the adjoining St. Monica parking lot with permission and insurance provisions in place..

- **Westside Farmers Market** using the St. Monica parking lot (starts Tuesday, June 7); The market continues its use of St. Monica facilities since 2008. Larger group of vendors, includes small urban farming entrepreneurs. R Community Bikes repairs will return. Bathroom access will be managed by a St. Monica-WSFM volunteer.

pop-up pantry using the St. Monica parking lot was rejected as unsuitable because of limited parking and traffic management assets. A site visit of a successful suburban pantry revealed that vehicle management, volunteer staff needs and overall organization would be too much for St. Monica parish to manage or coordinate. This information has been conveyed to SWEM.

- **Welcoming Committee:** Social distancing concerns imposed by COVID make social gathering opportunities unwise at the present. The group has not been able to meet for planning purposes.

- **Social Justice Committee:** The committee has not been able to convene since the start of the pandemic. The Facilitation Team reviewed its contributions with Kathy Garrant. There will be a discussion with Social Justice Committee leadership to see if there might be a possibility of resuming the *Blue Bags* initiative to gather donations for groups in need.

- **Creation Stewards:** No active projects planned at the moment. There will likely be communications with the ministry leaders as planning begins for parish Vacation Bible School.

- **Buildings, Grounds & Safety Committee updates:**

• Church door refinishing and reinstallation: Starting June 1st there will be a volunteer effort to remove and restore the wood surfaces of the church doors over a several-week period. Actual work will be performed in the narthex area. A temporary enclosure will be installed.

• Church window repair updates: Negotiations and site visits continue.

• Handicapped access side door entry: A new metal railing is being installed here and the electronic door access is being improved.

• School building projects: Floor-covering updates, broken window replacement and asbestos abatement will be done this summer.

• COVID Updates: refer to parish bulletin for current protocols in place.

• Review of safety procedures (review at next meeting along with other safety updates).

- Continue discussion Deacon Brian McNulty for creation of informative materials to help parishioners engage in safe and humane treatment of panhandling on parish campus.

5. Old Business:

- *125th Anniversary in 2023* (not discussed; raise at next meeting)

- *Synod* continuation (discuss at next meeting)

- New Facilitation Team member candidate (continue invitation)

- Jefferson Avenue 7th Day Adventist Church storage of materials since Dec. 2021.

Communications continue with the church's pastor. The materials will be stored more compactly to permit use of detached garage for Westside Farmers Market and parish activities.

6. Closing Prayer: The *Hail Mary*

• **Next Meeting date: June 8, 2022 at 6:00pm (virtual)**