

St. Monica Facilitation Team
February 28, 2018

Attendance: Connie Chao, John Curran, Fr. Ray Fleming, Mary Fran Kolbuc and Meg Lute
Unable to attend: Best Batchateu

The Meeting opened with the Parish Vision and Mission Statement.

1. Father Ray's Updates:

- The Adult Faith Formation activities of the past weekend were very successful. Casey and Mary Ellen Lopata presented "Always Our Children" based on the US Council of Catholic Bishops' document dealing with families, the Church and the lesbian and gay communities. Deacon Brian McNulty presented a Bible study "mystery story" exploring the development of the Epistles as part of a Lenten series. Deacon Matt Dudek conducts the Stations of the Cross with Benediction on Friday evenings in church.

- Father Ray is enjoying his pastoral administrator role at Immaculate Conception / Saint Bridget's parish. The dynamic active lay leadership is impressive at IC/SB. Some shared activities are underway involving St. Monica and IC/SB.

- **Rochester Academy Charter School Lease:** The school has signed a three-year lease for the former St. Monica School building. This will help the parish with financial stability. The parish has been very responsive over the years to keep the school building in good condition.

- The Lenten Season brings the staff together for planning. Success of the early Lenten activities (Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday etc.) stimulates staff morale and coordination.

- The Lenten presentation, "*Nicodemus, A Lenten Faith Journey*" by Sister Barbara Moore RSM, D.Min., on two occasions, reunited her with many friends from the parish. The Adult Faith Formation presentation was followed by reception in the narthex.
- *Day of Penance:* Will be Wednesday, March 14th 12:30pm until 7:00pm. Confessions will be heard at St. Monica.
- *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* will include four persons this year from the St. Monica and Emmanuel Church of the Deaf communities.

2. Ministry and Activity Updates:

- **Welcome Committee:** is following through with efforts to develop a parish photo directory. Mary Ellen Fischer will meet with Royal Chamberlain and Mark Shevlin.

- The annual winter's end social gathering, the "Hope for Spring Dinner" is set for Sunday, March 18th at Valicia's restaurant.
- There was preliminary discussion of a possible "parish cookbook" project.
- "Comment cards" to elicit parishioner suggestions and ideas will be distributed again.
- The Welcome Committee will help promote this year's Red Wings baseball game.
- There will be a New Parishioner Welcoming opportunity in the months ahead.
- American Sign Language learning is under consideration.
- Save the date: *Parish Picnic* at Genesee Valley Park on Sunday, September 16th.

- **Buildings & Grounds Group:** The group has been studying ways to deal with the original stained glass windows. The windows are encased in a steel frame that has been affected by corrosion and aging. The window frame is enclosed by masonry that needs repair. The ventilator windows that open-and-shut no longer move easily and often bind. There have been two site visits with restoration professionals. The repair process will solicit three bids. It is hoped that repairs can begin in April. Temporary plywoods panels will be put in place.

- School repair projects have had good results. There has been some tree-trimming on the school campus and church parking lot. Wood church doors will be painted soon.

- At its next meeting on March 23rd, the Buildings and Grounds Group will begin some long-term planning for 2018 and 2019 projects.

3. Old Business:

- **St. Monica 2020:** This initiative to “Grow the Parish” lost momentum over the past year. Only two meetings relating to the topic were held last year. The core group leaders had busy schedules. The Facilitation Team raised the question how to restart the process.

Fr. Ray suggested having a Parish Meeting in April. Start with the broad question, “Where do we go from here?”. There would be no prior core group meeting although Fr. Ray will talk with members individually before the parish meeting.

Action Item: Need to set a specific date.

- **SWEM Stroll:** This annual activity brings ecumenical groups from southwest Rochester together to raise funds for local food security throughout the year made possible by the Southwest Ecumenical Ministries. Fund-raising helps sustain the food cupboard and provide supplemental summertime assistance when school lunches are not available.

SWEM Stroll 2018 will use the St. Monica narthex as a gathering point during the afternoon of Sunday, May 20th with a back-up date of June 3rd. Paperwork completion is underway to use parish facilities.

4. New Business:

- At Fr. Ray’s suggestion, the Facilitation Team will move to a monthly schedule with flexibility as needed.

- Students from the Rochester School for the Deaf will perform community service Tuesday, June 19th at the St. Monica parish gardens. Parishioner helpers welcome.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Next Facilitation Team Meeting: Wednesday, March 21*, at 6:00pm at the rectory. *revised