

St. Monica Facilitation Team Minutes
November 18, 2020

Attendance: Connie Chau, John Curran, Father Ray Fleming, Mary Fran Kolbuc, Meg Lute, and Bob Passalugo. Excused: Chib Onwunaka (Immaculate Conception-St. Bridget)

1. Opening Prayer: “Come Holy Spirit ...”; with a request for comfort and wisdom.
2. Approval of 10/21/20 Facilitation Team Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved unanimously.

3. Father Ray’s updates: (parishes; charter school; diocesan; staffing; other)

Fr. Ray relates that there is a lot happening in spite of the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus. People are finding innovative and creative ways to get things done. As of this date, the parish staff is working hard to plan alternative options for liturgical and other activities while New York State considers moving to a higher level of social gathering limits. (From Yellow to Orange status). The parish would shut down as done previously and successfully last spring if more-restrictive attendance and distancing limits were imposed. Activities would move online virtually as much as possible with only staff persons on-site. Live-streaming the Christmas Mass with no parishioners in attendance is a possibility.

*Update: 11/19/20 3pm: The Buildings, Grounds & Safety Group, along with Fr. Ray, decided that the church **will close** for worship purposes **if** New York State adopts the more-restrictive Orange status which permits **only 25 persons** in attendance. This is a repeat of the lock-down condition of last spring. Rather than turn people away, there will be no active church services. Church services would be conducted online.*

- **Immaculate Conception-St. Bridget’s Black Catholic History Month** virtual retreat :
Update: Fr. Ray and three St. Monica parishioners participated in the initial virtual session 11/18/20 featuring a presentation by national expert Fr. John Judie. St. Monica parishioners were informed how to access the 11/19 second session.

- **Pastoral Planning**: Early efforts are underway by the Diocese to resume pastoral planning broadly. This is driven by the need to better manage and utilize all our resources.

- The **Rochester Academy Charter School** continues to function and the funds from leasing help the St. Monica financial status significantly during this pandemic period.

4. Ministry and Parish Activity updates:

• **Faith Formation and Advent activities** (including a religious *Christmas Story Experience*)

- There will be no actual children’s Christmas pageant but other virtual options are in the planning stages for Holiday religious services. Jessica Tette maintains a safety-minded balance of actual and virtual contact for Youth Faith Formation.

• **Social Justice Committee**: There was a successful drop-off of blankets for Christmas distribution at St. Peter’s Kitchen. The drive-through format and gathered 37 blankets.

- Watch bulletin for “Blue Bag” food drop-off plans for Christmas
 - The December SWEM large-scale Christmas basket distribution will not take place at the St. Monica garages.
- **Buildings, Grounds & Safety Group** (meets virtually 11/19/20). The group will review the status of projects involving the church, rectory, garages, and school building. Snow removal will be discussed.
 - **Virtual Prayer and Meditation groups:** These two separate efforts are flourishing during the pandemic under virtual conditions. Some members belong to both groups.
 - **Parish Technology:** Jessica Tette is playing the lead role in meeting the technical challenges for website-based communications. Enabling video live-streaming of worship services is now a priority. John DeMott is assisting with audio updates of equipment.
 - **Welcome Committee:** *On-hold* during the pandemic.
 - **Wrap ’n Run conclusion:** For more than a quarter-century and concluding in 2016-17, Wrap ’n Run performed Christmastime gift-wrapping at Marketplace Mall. It was a major parish fund-raiser and friendly outreach opportunity. The unused items were stored in the attic. The accumulation posed an air-flow problem under hot conditions.

Parishioners expressed the desire for good stewardship by donating the very good condition unused materials to charitable groups. All materials were shared with the Christmas ministries of Holy Apostles and St. Peter’s Kitchen plus the year-round gift distribution by the Ronald McDonald House and Gary the Happy Pirate Toy Fund. This was a fitting end commemorating the generosity and sacrifice of St. Monica parishioners and helpers.
 - **Closing Prayer:** a reflection on the importance of being uplifting and grateful during difficult times.

Next *virtual* Facilitation Team Meeting: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6pm

Minutes submitted with updated information 11/19/20; revised 11/20/20 jec