

St. Monica Facilitation Team
August 22, 2018

Attendance: Best Batchateu, Connie Chau, John Curran, Father Ray Fleming, Mary Fran Kolbuc and Meg Lute.
Excused: Bob Passalugo

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Best Batchateu.

- Special thanks to parishioner Royal Chamberlain for devoting his time to taking a photograph of the Facilitation Team for the parish directory.

1. Father Ray's updates: delayed to later part of meeting due his attendance at the Immaculate Conception / St. Bridget's Finance Council meeting.

2. Summertime special activities:

- **Fuller Bike Tour** Aug. 3 & 4: Planning began in early June with a late July visit following Sunday Mass by the New York State event coordinator. Thirty cyclists arrived from a home-building project near Niagara Falls on Friday evening and spent the night at the rectory before leaving the next day for Syracuse. St. Monica parishioner hospitality treated the cyclists to a potluck dinner with ample food left over for lunch and supper on the following day. The rare opportunity for showers and a home-like overnight was most appreciated. The group hopes to return next year and is considering Rochester as a potential work location.

- **Red Wings Game:** Good parishioner attendance at the August 10th baseball game enjoyed the singing of the National Anthem by young ladies from the St. Monica Youth Choir.

- **Vacation Bible School:** VBS 2018 was considered by its 57 combined youth and adult participants as being "the best ever". The "Off the Map" theme explored new territory featuring stories, music, games, crafts, performing arts and great food. Credit goes to Jennifer Lafler for her artistic and organizational skills backed up by Charles Arnell with parishioner support and youth leadership.

- **ROC 'N Rally 8/19/18:** This 19th Ward-based nonpartisan youth-organized effort combined voter registration with table activities featuring about ten groups dealing with common sense approaches to reduce gun violence. St. Monica hosted the event in the parking lot with good attendance and media coverage.

- **Parish Picnic:** Planning, communication and preparation continue for the Sunday, September 16th afternoon picnic at the Riverbend Lodge at Genesee Valley Park.

3. Parish Ministries and Activities Updates:

• **Buildings and Grounds Group:** Work is underway presently at the school replacing damaged windows. The parking lot will have its perimeter border improved to reduce potential trip hazards. LED church lighting updates will replace outdated incandescent fixtures.

Starting in early September, the Swiatek firm will repair the masonry, metal frames, vent windows and stained glass for the church stained glass windows. Plywood coverings will be used temporarily. The 8/24/18 meeting will discuss air conditioning and other energy-related matters,

- **Welcome Committee:** The photo directory project is nearing completion of individual parishioner photographs and is now working on parish ministries.

- **Social Justice:** Support continues for immigrant families. Residential support needs for the homeless will be monitored for winter 2018-9. Climate issues receive advocacy.

- **Faith Formation:** Fr. Ray and Jennifer Lafler are working on the full range of Faith Formation and sacramental preparation activities. Preparation continues for the next Confirmation class. Recruitment is underway for Children's Faith Formation and liturgy. There will be an ambitious study of Ignatian Prayer involving three 4-week sessions starting at the end of September.

- **Suddenly Single:** This is a parishioner-initiated effort to involve adults who are dealing with sudden loss of a loved one. It is an effort to re-engage persons who are grieving and share from the presence of others who "get it". Initial response is encouraging for a good start.

- **Finance Council:** Careful planning will enable St. Monica parish to follow a balanced budget for its 2018-19 fiscal year.

3. New Business: (including Fr. Ray's Updates)

- **Parish Self-Sufficiency:** Father Ray Fleming's first year of experience serving as pastor of St. Monica, Emmanuel Church of the Deaf, and Immaculate Conception /St. Bridget's has shown that the separate parishes are vibrant, engaged and stable. Fr. Ray plans to build upon the individual parishes' strengths by encouraging their further self-sufficiency.

- **The Stephen Ministry:** In many Protestant and Catholic parishes, the Stephen Ministry is a way to increase the number of trained lay persons who assist with bereavement, death & dying care and home visitations. Father Ray and Jennifer are exploring the possibility of developing this type of trained lay ministry at St. Monica.

- **Gathering of national & international deaf priests** here in Rochester: Six deaf priests from the U.S. and Africa will stay at the Mercy Prayer Center to share ideas and experience in the near future.

- **Suggested new member for the Facilitation Team:** Members will speak individually to a potential candidate to consider a discernment period with the team.

- **Idea-to-Reality suggestion:** There is a suggestion to provide a simple bulletin item to help parishioners learn the names and faces of new and old-time parishioners. Raise this topic again at the next FT meeting.

The meeting concluded with a prayer led by Best Batchateu.

Next Facilitation Team Meeting: **Wed. Sept. 19, 2018** at 6:00pm at the rectory