

**St. Monica Facilitation Team  
Virtual Meeting July 21, 2021**

Attendance: Connie Chau, John Curran, Fr. Ray Fleming; Mary Fran Kolbuc, Meg Lute.  
Excused: Bob Passalugo

- Opening Prayer: Our work is prayer. Gratitude for the gifts of this day, our parish and healing.
- Approval of 6/16/21 Minutes: The Minutes were approved unanimously.

1. Fr. Ray's Updates:

- General financial picture for St. Monica: Parishioners have been most generous during the COVID period. There has been some trimming-back of parish expenses but the financial picture is good. The upcoming Catholic Ministries Appeal will reflect the same assessment as last year.

- **Immaculate Conception-St. Bridget's**

- Their office relocation to 34 Monica Street is underway with renovations and phone system updates. This involves "moving the IC-SB office but not closing it." Phone calls directed to the former IC-SB office merge now with the St. Monica Office phone system. Move will be completed August 3rd. Fr. Ray celebrates Mass at IC this weekend and will inform parishioners of the changes. The directives affecting office management came from the Bishop's Office.

- Re-establish a link with their Pastoral Council? Not at this time. The two parishes already hold joint staff meetings with good results. Revisit later.

- IC-SB will share Vacation Bible School at St. Monica this summer.

- St. Monica and IC-SB will attend a Fri., Aug. 20 Red Wings baseball game. Our youth group will sing the National Anthem. The ticket prices will be lowered by \$4 using a subsidy.

- **Diocesan information:** In actuality, the local newspapers provide more information about the Diocesan bankruptcy proceedings than the Diocese itself. Current court proceedings are moving slowly in a mediation process. Plaintiffs feel that not enough money is available now. It is likely that the judge overseeing the proceedings may impose a resolution. It is not known where additional money may come from. Lawyers receive 30% of settlement.

- Bishop Matano will submit his letter of resignation (75th birthday) in September. Unsure how the Vatican will respond.

- **Parishioner response to gun violence** in proximity to parish campus: At least two deaths have occurred nearby during the summer months already. Several people have indicated that they will stay away until the level of gun violence declines. Parish staff response has been supportive of their decision and will keep in touch. Outdoor activity at the Westside Farmers Market has a response plan that is working well. The most recent 7/20/21 market session had the highest attendance of the season (428 people) in spite of adverse weather conditions.

2. Ministry and Activity Updates:

• **Faith Formation** has an emerging intergenerational direction to activities conducted over the past year. Good cooperation preparing for a dinosaur-themed Vacation Bible School and a CYO Basketball Clinic. Rectory basement space will be used in case of rain. There is a 5-week Series of small-scale summer activities on Sundays for Youth Faith Formation families.

- **Welcoming Committee:** Group has not been able to meet due to COVID restrictions.
  - There has been no planning yet for a possible Parish Feast Day picnic.
- **Virtual Prayer Group:** Dorothy Siegel continues this group's regular virtual meetings.
- **Buildings, Grounds & Safety:**
  - 7/22/21 meeting will update lighting, church window & door repair and other projects.
  - Members will tour facilities indoors & outdoors to review current tasks and anticipate / prioritize future ones.
  - Need to train new IC-SB staff and familiarize them with facilities and procedures.
  - Automatic Defibrillator Device has had its annual update. Several staff and Buildings group members need to be re-certified in its use with a new training session soon.
  - Will review discussion on stair-lift consideration for rectory basement access.
- **Finance Committee** plans to resume in-person meeting as conditions permit.
- **Social Justice:** Group has not been able to meet due to COVID restrictions and illnesses.
  - **St. Peter's Kitchen Back-to-School supplies** project will resume in early August using the detached garage. JoAnn DeMott is coordinating.
  - *Update:* SWEM (SouthWest Ecumenical Ministry) will be moving its storage and distribution warehouse to a suburban location.
- **Creation Stewards:** Has not met due to COVID-19 restrictions. No word on activity.
- **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group** hopes to resume meeting in person at the rectory soon.
- **Legion of Mary:** Includes two active groups consisting primarily of seniors. Members will need CASE training. Deacon Matt and Deacon Brian have been advising the individual groups. They must follow the visitation requirements of nursing home and medical settings.
  
- **New members for Facilitation Team:** *Continue*

### 3. New Business:

- **CASE training** requirements have been expanded by the Diocese to include Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. All CASE training is now conducted online with sessions averaging 2 hours length. Social Security information is needed for the required background checks as conveyed by Jessica Tette. Volunteers for parish activities will need background checks also.
  
- **125th Parish Anniversary planning**": Reviewing the planning for the 1998 Centennial points to the need for "lead-up activities" like Pancake Breakfasts and Spaghetti Dinners to build interest. Parish no longer has the facilities to prepare meals on-site for groups exceeding thirty persons.

Closing prayer: *St. Monica Vision & Mission Statement*

Next meeting date: **Wednesday August 18, 2021: 6:00pm** (Zoom virtual meeting)

Draft minutes written & submitted 7/22/21 jec

