

St. Monica Facilitation Team Meeting
August 10, 2022

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

1. Review and Approval of previous FT meeting minutes 5/18/22: The Minutes were approved unanimously with the amendment of the new FT member's starting date at St. Monica.

2. Father Ray's updates:

- **New Mass times** starting 1st weekend in September: (Saturday 4pm St. Monica; Sunday 8:30am Immaculate Conception-St.Bridget; Sunday 10:00am St. Monica; 11:30am Emmanuel Church of the Deaf). Father Robert Bradler of Immaculate Conception-St. Bridget's is no longer able to celebrate Mass in a large gathering. Father Ray Fleming must now serve as the sacramental minister for Emmanuel Church of the Deaf, Immaculate Conception-St. Bridget and St. Monica parishes. The decision was made by Fr. Fleming in consultation with members of the liturgy committees of each parish who were "on board". The decision reflected on Fr. Ray's own health and the ability to spend time effectively at each parish.

3. Parish Ministries and Activities updates:

- **Youth Faith Formation:**

Basketball Clinic Aug. 3-5, 2022: The parish held a very successful weather-flexible CYO basketball training and teamwork development opportunity for neighborhood and parish youth. Parishioner support aided logistics, meal preparation and supervision. Good TV media coverage with a special visit from the RPD horse patrol.

Earth Protectors Vacation Bible School August 15-19: Preparation underway for an environmentally-themed VBS week with input from the Creation Stewards ministry. Multiple opportunities for parishioners with CASE training to pitch in.

- **Buildings, Grounds & Safety** project updates: The Buildings group, with technical assistance from parishioners Frank Monroe and Mike May, sanded, repaired, stained and sealed the exterior church doors during July and August. This restored the structural integrity and beauty of the original doors. The volunteer-driven project was a major money-saver for the parish. Several school repair and updating projects are underway during the summer break. Repair, updating and security projects involving the church, rectory and garages are underway or planned for this fall. Father Ray approved making a rectory key available to Mark Juba to help facilitate locking the parish buildings at the close of the Farmers Market.

- **Social Justice:**

St. Peter's Kitchen 40th Anniversary Celebration: St. Monica hosted the outdoor cookout celebration for volunteers affiliated with St. Peter's Kitchen coinciding with the operations of the Westside Farmers Market.

Back-to-School backpack collection: Parishioners coordinated a generous effort to gather school supplies that will be forwarded to St. Peter's Kitchen for distribution.

- **Welcome Committee:** Red Wings Baseball (with Youth Faith Formation) on 8/12/22. Advance ticket sales very encouraging.

- **Westside Farmers Market:** Promotions involving preparing and sharing local foods plus local craft vendor sales help boost interest in the Market which is having a productive year.

- *Joining Southwest Area Churches for an Evening of Community* will be a Market-sponsored event in the church parking lot on Tuesday August 30th from 4-7pm with market product raffles and entertainment.

- **Panhandling:** An instructive item has appeared in the bulletin advising parishioners how to engage compassionately the known neighborhood persons who ask for money. Do not give money. Redirect these person to available 2-1-1 services to meet their needs.

- **Storage of 7th Day Adventist Church materials:** The items remain clean and intact. Efforts to communicate with the pastor have had no response.

4. New Business:

- **Renewing charter school lease ending 6/30/2023:** The parish would like the upcoming lease renewal to cover a 3-year period to help the parish better predict available funds.

- **Rectory courtyard use** for youth activities: The currently-unused rectory courtyard holds possibilities for outdoor Youth Faith Formation activities and other uses. This requires repairing stairs and adding railings. A task force will address this topic.

- **Restart of Community Table** (beverage & food treats following Sunday Mass): A recent outdoor Sunday experiment with a Hospitality Table format proved successful for socializing and rekindling relationships strained by COVID social distancing restrictions. Discussions will begin to make a fresh start for this popular parishioner outreach opportunity.

- **Acknowledging the contributions of the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Monica School:** The parish Archives will incorporate information supplied by the Archives of the Sisters of Saint Joseph listing members of the religious order who taught at or had ties with St. Monica School.

Closing Prayer: A *Hail Mary* was offered in appreciation of the efforts that it takes to operate parish activities and preserve community under the stresses of a long hot summer.

Next Facilitation Team Meeting:

MONDAY, September 12th at 6:00pm at the rectory

(with virtual meeting option)

Draft minutes written and submitted 8/11/22 jec