

St. Monica Facilitation Team
April 6, 2022

Attendance for the Virtual Meeting: Connie Chau, John Curran, Fr. Ray Fleming, Mary Fran Kolbuc, Meg Lute and Bob Passalugo; Absent: Best Batchateu

Opening Prayer: A thank you for the closing of the season of Lent and the approach of a glorious Easter. Peace-making for the entire world at this time of crisis in the Ukraine and in our city.

• **Review and Approval** 3/9/22 meeting minutes: Accepted and approved unanimously with one abstention owing to a meeting absence.

1. Father Ray's Updates:

• **Immaculate Conception - St. Bridget's**: At the present, pastor Rev. Robert Bradler is hospitalized. There will be adequate coverage for Masses and Easter services at IC-St. B. and St. Monica. The parish council at Immaculate Conception-St. B will be meeting this weekend as they prepare long-term plans. Funeral coverage is all right for both parishes. There will be a Good Friday service at IC-SB at noon and one at 2:00pm at St. Monica. The Easter Vigil service will be held at IC-SB. Updated COVID protocols will be followed (e.g. no washing of the feet).

• **Diocesan**: The Diocesan bankruptcy proceedings continue with no ending date in sight. It is anticipated that individual parishes may be affected to assist with payments. *Still in progress.*

• **Synod Gathering** held at the St. Monica narthex after 9:00AM Mass 3/27/22: With minimal advance notice, about twelve parishioners, including St. Monica staff, attended a discussion of the Synod 2021-23 Goals. Input was shared on easel sheets and recorded for future compilation and eventual submitting to the Diocese. Next step involves discussing the topic at the May 18, 2022 Facilitation Team meeting to enlist further parish participation and support. No Synod questionnaire materials submitted by the parish at this time.

• **Faith Formation**: Sacramental preparation for first Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation are moving forward with direction from Jessica Tette. The Passion drama involving parish youth takes place April 10th.

2. Ministry and Activities Updates:

• **CYO**: The parish-sponsored CYO athletic activities will now expand to include kickball with Tami Divers as director.

• **Buildings, Grounds & Safety**: Group meets 4/7/22 and will discuss projects underway and plan activities for the months ahead. Will submit budget information soon to the parish Finance Council. Deacon Brian McNulty will share insights and help formulate a consistent and compassionate parish-wide response to the concerns raised by recent aggressive panhandling on parish grounds. An update to the parish safety plan will unveiled soon.

- **Creation Stewards:** The hosting of vehicle parking at St. Monica helped the Albany *Climate March* rally. The Stewards are looking at options for neighborhood projects.
- **Social Justice:** Unable to meet at this time.
- **Welcoming Committee:** Unable to meet at this time.
- **Westside Farmers Market:** Preparations for the June opening are proceeding. Under review at the present is the consideration from Foodlink to use the parish parking lot for a “pop-up pantry”. This would require discussion and role clarifications before potential approval.
- **Storage of Jefferson Avenue 7th Day Adventist Church materials:** Materials are dry, safe and secure. Will keep in touch with their pastor. The demolition of their fire-damaged church is not yet underway. Continued storage will not adversely affect other operations using the garage.
- **Nielsen House:** The approval process is complete for the Spiritus Christi Men’s Prison Outreach program to use the western portion of the St. Monica parking lot for a Thursday May 26, 2022 Open House.
- **Facilitation Team Discernment Process** for new candidates: New parishioner Kathy G will attend the May 2022 meeting to discern possibly joining the team. A second candidate is considering joining the team.

3. New Business:

- **Updating information on Parish Ministries and activities:** The pandemic has affected the ability of parish ministries to meet, plan and conduct activities. The list of active ministries, ongoing activities and special events needs to be updated. John Curran will update the previous contact people and information lists.

The meeting closed with a prayer of gratitude. We are thankful for the challenges ahead that will help us grow and strengthen as a parish.

Next Facilitation Team Meeting:

VIRTUAL format: Wednesday, May 18th 2022 at 6:00pm.

Minutes version 3 resubmitted 4/10/22. jec