

St. Monica Facilitation Team
Meeting Minutes Sept. 12, 2022

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

1. Opening Prayer: the St. Monica *Vision & Mission Statement*

2. Review and approval of the 8/10/22 Meeting minutes: With the addition of the adjusted new Mass Schedule times listed here, the minutes were approved unanimously:

Sat. 4:00pm St. Monica; Sun. 9:00am Immaculate Conception-St. Bridget; 10:15am St. Monica; 11:30am Emmanuel Church of the Deaf. Father Ray made the decision for the Mass schedule.

3. Father Ray's Updates:

- **First Week of the New Mass Schedule:** All the weekend Masses observed the revised schedule. The music and liturgical dance arrangements will be modified at Immaculate Conception to permit conclusion allowing for travel time. The parking lot at St. Monica will be cordoned-off to permit handicapped parking for the Emmanuel members who arrive at the conclusion of the 10:15 Mass.

- ***Courier Journal* (Sept. 2022)** Featured a glowing article about St. Monica parish minister Jessica Tette focusing on her social justice background and current outreach efforts.

- **Diocesan Bankruptcy update:** An article appeared in the Sept. 2022 *Catholic Courier* (p.5) explaining the new committee comprised of priests from across the Diocese who will ensure that parishes have a voice in the bankruptcy proceedings. The parish bulletin alerted parishioners to review the information.

COVID-related delays have provided limited progress for the resolution process. The committee “assists in the legal representation of parishes with respect to the bankruptcy case, attending various mediation sessions and meetings with individual parishes.” The committee tries to answer questions from pastors and finance directors. The process maintains confidentiality. “The goal is to achieve a consensual resolution of the abuse claims against parishes through mediation and the bankruptcy case.” Bankruptcy attorney Timothy Lister said, “The idea would be to limit any recovery to the assets of the settlement trust, thereby relieving parishes and other Catholic-affiliated entities from on-going exposure through litigation.” Individual parishes do pay towards the attorney’s fee according to a formula similar to the CMA. This will be an on-going process.

- **Charter School Lease Status:** Still in progress.

4. **Ministry and Activity Updates:**

- Buildings, Grounds and Safety Committee: There has been a lot of progress this year on projects relating to the school, church, rectory, garages and property. All the boilers are monitored and getting attention as needed. Masonry, heating, window repair, painting, electrical updates, church doors and school flooring issues are making steady progress.

- Youth Faith Formation has concluded a busy basketball clinic, Vacation Bible School, and a youth retreat this summer. The rectory courtyard will be improved to allow youth activity outdoors with safety in mind.
- Social Justice: Kathy Garrant has been consulting with Dan Lill who is no longer able to lead the Social Justice Committee. Kathy will reconvene the group to determine which projects to resume or undertake. Meg Lute will talk with Mary Ellen Fischer about the annual Thanksgiving basket activity.
- Creation Stewards: Tree planting as part of Youth Retreat on 9/18/22 is a follow-up to the group's assistance with the *Earth Protectors* vacation bible school activities.
- Westside Farmers Market: Performing well in spite of occasional rainy conditions. Mayor Malik Evans and Council member Mitch Gruber will visit the Market 9/20/22 to celebrate the fifteen-year commitment of Jackie Farrell. She will retire as market manager next year but will stay involved in the Market.
- Welcoming Committee: Unable to meet at this time. Meg will try to connect with Debbie Diederich.
- Adult Faith Formation: virtual spirituality sessions continue. Training will restart for lectors and Eucharistic ministers
- Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) planning will include Immaculate Conception parish
- CYO sports programming will be resuming with Tami Divers as coordinator.
- Hospitality Table (how to reorganize): Will delay this activity to allow people to get used to the new Mass schedule. Pursue this topic later. Needs to have a simpler format.
- Video Mass live streaming has drawn a broad audience regionally and internationally.
- Facilitation Team: After her discernment of the goals and operation of the Facilitation Team, Kathy Garrant has decided to join the team as an active member

4. Old Business:

- Parishioner concerns raised about growing the parish: These included attracting new parishioners, increasing plate collection, hospitality table restart and resuming parish meetings. A productive conversation of these topics took place. Some practical ideas followed.
- Panhandling response update: An unobtrusive and low-key monitoring of the parking lot takes place before Sunday Mass and immediately afterwards.
- 2023 is 125th Anniversary of St. Monica parish: How do we commemorate? Having a dinner dance at a party house establishment in late 2023 was suggested as a realistic option under current conditions. Keep things simple. Perhaps engage the Welcome Committee in the planning

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Next Facilitation Team meeting: Monday, October 17 at 6:00pm at the rectory.