

Holy Family Catholic Community

Pastoral Table Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2021

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Attending: Fr. Terry Keehan, Sue Geegan, Greg Flanagan, Rick McMahon, Anne Madsen, Lisa Gagliano, Mike Myers, Joy Kull, Grant Guthrie

Planned Absence: Luis Gutierrez

The meeting started promptly at 6:30 PM

Opening prayer – Greg Flanagan

Introduction of new member – Grant Guthrie

Summary of the organization and objectives of the Pastoral Table – Fr. Terry

Point of emphasis: The Pilgrimage remains the focal point of our current conversation

Pulse of the Parish

- Parishioner feedback was gathered by Table members centered around the questions: *What do you need to experience a sense of belonging at Church? How can the Pilgrimage help with that?*
- Feedback received was highly varied; Many responses were peripheral to the core question/s of interest
- **Communication challenges** were highlighted as an underlying theme of feedback received
 - **Generational barriers to technology access**
 - GOAL: Increase and improve access to, and utilization of, Holy Family’s extensive electronic communication methods (e.g., website, Pilgrimage-related emails)
 - METHOD TO ADDRESS: Discussion of the possibility of group sessions to train individuals on how to use their preferred devices – Considering the age demographic of possible participants, 1:1 assistance at training sessions is likely needed – Suggestion made to gauge the interest of such sessions prior to further planning – Suggestion made for members of the Table to stand in front of the congregation and personally invite those who would like assistance to access Holy Family’s website – Consideration for recruitment of tech-savvy volunteers to teach and provide peer tutoring (i.e., Table members, Knights, Harper college students, teens)
 - **Pilgrimage-related communication**
 - Some respondents felt “inundated” by emails related to the Pilgrimage - Suggestion offered to be more mindful about the frequency of emails sent from “Fr. Terry” in order to highlight their importance and likelihood of being read

- Fr. Terry shared his contemplation for new phrasing for inviting individuals to participation in AiG: “We are interested in the spiritual growth of your children; I am also here for your spiritual growth.”
 - Emphasis on personally welcoming others to the Pilgrimage and back to church
- **Further “opening” church** was identified as a significant component of bringing people back into the walls of Holy Family
 - Respondents identified *belonging* as synonymous with *community* – Emphasis on the importance of small groups that meet in-person, especially in terms of growing relationships among individuals and within the Holy Family community
 - Knights Café: New hours of operation to promote attendance – 8:30 AM – 11 AM
 - Gala is scheduled the week after Easter – Gala will be on campus and will start with a Mass of Rock – Discussion about how to manage the Mass-Gala crowds is ongoing – It is anticipated that Gala will resume to pre-Covid design next year
 - Thursday morning Mass has resumed
 - Question raised about choir returning – Covid-restrictions preclude it at this time
 - Mention of hospitality resuming – pending
 - FM Mass will be offered twice a month after Pentecost – FM identified as a very vibrant and effective means of filling the church and actively involving families across multiple generations
 - Livestreaming of Mass is planned to continue even post-Covid – Important to increasing the accessibility of the Mass to all people – Comment that the livestream is currently viewed and appreciated by individuals in our community and across the globe

Adventures in Grace

- Reiteration of the importance of strictly keeping within the scheduled time allotment at the live gathering
- Suggestion made to distribute postcards to invite individuals to AiG
- Suggestion to “begin with the end in mind” to aid participants in grasping the foundational message of the evening

General Communication

- Increase visuals at Mass to highlight the ways in which Holy Family is actively responding to the needs of the poor – Suggestion made to “be bold” and use the screens in the church to display our efforts – Important to inviting others into active service at Holy Family
- Emphasis on the importance of “staying relevant” – Prayers of the Faithful must reflect the current social climate

Renew My Church

- Focused on evangelization – “Envisioning a new reality for church.” (Fr. Terry)
- Fr. Terry expressed that he sees the Pilgrimage and feedback received from parishioners as tied into Renew My Church – Will provide specifics on how to follow-up after the Pilgrimage
- January 11, 2022: Combined meeting with St. Anne
- Committee formation: 10 members from Holy Family and 10 members from St. Anne – meeting scheduled at the beginning of April

- Consideration for how Holy Family and St. Anne can combine some programs (e.g., Teen ministry, RCIA)
- Perceiving Renew My Church as an opportunity for Holy Family to expand its reach – Suggestion to bring in “big speakers”
- Fr. Terry shared the following: “Communication and cooperation can and must lead to decreased comparison and competition – Create a culture of evangelization for both of us.”

Closing prayer – Anne Madsen

Next scheduled Pastoral Table meeting: **Tuesday, January 25**