

Holy Family Catholic Community
Pastoral Table
Minutes from August 22, 2022

Present: Fr. Terry Keehan, Pastor; Mike Meyers, Chair; Greg Flanagan; Rick McMahon; Sue Geegan, Staff; Luis Gutierrez; Krystal Harris; Joy Kulll; Anne Madsen

Absent: Dr. Lisa Gagliano

Mike Meyers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Reading: Gospel of Luke by Rick McMahon

AIG:

There will be a continuation of events and speakers throughout 2022 and 2023 with a Sunday/Wednesday format.

Still securing speakers....finding this challenging

Social justice issues being developed

Synod Discussion Follow-up: using questions developed by Krystal Harris
Krystal had previously sent out her two page document with questions and available resources.

Discussion was facilitated by Krystal.

We were reminded what the Pope said concerning the Synod: It is for everyone, to include everyone.

The Synod is a time of listening, and then taking action.

Tonight there are 2 objectives:

1. Discuss what it would take to enhance the experience of Synodality at Holy Family.
2. Brainstorm how to include those not currently active in the parish in the Holy Family Synodal process.

Krystal asked the Pastoral table to consider first – How do we listen to the needs of all voices, including disengaged of all ages?

Krystal's former responses were from about 20 people where just simple questions were asked. 20 people of young adult age with various engagement or lack of engagement with the Catholic church.

Next would be to put together a forum or discussion table

Comments by the various Table members:

In 1998 so many people were appreciative about being asked why they no longer attended....seemed more engaged in the process then...

...but Today? – not just apathy, some inherent anger, bringing it up hits a trigger-

So many just not interested in talking about it now – our biggest hurdle

Many feel Church is irrelevant

Just as there is a disassociation with USA flag, patriotism, and government,

etc.; institutions in general no longer have the loyalty of people,

people no longer relate to various institutions that were once the

foundation of people's work and social life

People used to relate to their world through various institutions, which

they no longer do...one of those major institutions was the Church

Today we see far more "it's about my freedom, individualism and

entitlement" – and with the busyness of life there is very little

"discretionary" time

Experience and investigation – not sure what this meant (!) but I wrote down these two words!

There is a world-wide Paradigm shift currently in process concerning belief systems, how a person relates to institutions, where and how one engages in life.

Society has become all too familiar with "Toxic polarization" – "the haters"

Just being Catholics, and the institution of the Catholic church creates so many barriers and rules

Jesus said "Go to the fringes".....are they really welcome here?

If we have parishioners who are not happy with the One in Love Ministry,

which has no real visible presentence....can we really say all are welcome at

HF? What would be the reaction if the "fringes" really showed up?

Young people today want to see the Church welcoming all.

How do we get to “No judgment” – and “we value you” - we really do want to hear from you??

Krystal gave some statistics on how people actually come to church:

64% reached by a friend

44% by family

10% by a faith group

The question was asked: How will HF decide to address the “issues”?

How can Renew my church help to move us forward?

Does HF need to define who is truly welcome?

Do we need to work on how to be inclusive amidst dogma?

Krystal stated: we need to figure out how to approach the parish.

It will take all of us.

And she asked:

Do we need a website (?) where we can discuss and explore together:

Women in the church, abortion, LGBTQ+, immigration; etc.

Can we ask questions on the Sunday screens?

And she stated:

We should not be afraid to put it out there

F. Terry and Krystal will meet privately to craft 2 or 3 questions to begin the discussion. They will bring the questions to the Pastoral Table for input on wording, structure, timing, and format.

For now the focus will be on Young Adults and Teens and holding opportunities for discussion like “Theology on Tap,” “Pizza With the Pastor.”

We will look at targeted ages and gender groups, all with a soft entry approach. We need to go to them...

#3 –from Krystal’s handout – “What makes a parish successful?

Some answers: New experiences for Young Adults and Teens.

More “doing” good physically – Social Justice issues.

We then quickly discussed that a “marketing” data base could be taken/gleaned from our own HF data base of families and individuals

Market to a specific age group (Young Adult/Teen) – from our own data base... for instance advertizing 2 events (social/soft entry events with discussion of the “crafted” questions) and a planned Social Justice event that is coming up.

Pastors Report:

**Fall Fest – September 25th, 11 a.m. Mass, Knights café, family and kid activities

**September 25th – an informal Teen mass in Common Ground. First of 6 throughout the coming year (2022-2023)

**Family Faith – catechists needed for pre-school and 8th grade
Enrollment in process, looking to have 400-420 enrolled

Welcome to Karen McHale who joins the Family Faith team as a Coordinator. Karen is parishioner and mother of 4.

**Teen Faith – Fr. Terry is sending personal letters to Teens asking them to consider being a “peer catechist.”

**Adult Faith – upcoming RCIA Information session

**Human Concerns – presented by Sue Geegan: there are significant issues with PADS due to volunteering issues. Journeys, the agency that coordinates PADS throughout the NW Suburbs, says there are only 3 of 19 sites able to open in the Winter at this time. They might be able to open a couple more sites by cobbling together volunteer groupings made up of people from multiple churches.

Summer Suppers for those in need averages 153 every Monday night and will continue to the end of September.

Also, Looking to reinstitute the New Parishioner Gatherings in the Rectory after chosen Masses. There is a back log of approximately 200 new members to catch up with.

**Gala will be on February 11, 2023, probably at Concord Banquets.

**Academy enrollment is just shy of last year's 474. This will likely grow as school begins. Teacher needs: Music, Pre-school class, IB coordinator

**Jackie Pulkrabek at the Front Desk will take on additional responsibilities in areas of Parish Development.

**Parish Manager – we have a very strong candidate for this position, they are a HF parishioner. Ro Geisler will remain as a Consultant for the Pastor and our Parish mission.

**New gym floor – smaller but still regulation for Middle School sports. A special signature and dedication to Fr. Terry can be found on the gym floor. Retractable bleachers are still to come. Once the bleachers have arrived there will be a special dedication and blessing for the newly renovated gym.

**Shenanigans – good response, hopefully this can continue

**Critique from Conservatives.....still!

Closing Prayer – Joy Kull

Respectfully submitted by Anne Madsen