

**Holy Family Catholic Community  
Pastoral Table  
Meeting Minutes for January 24, 2023**

**Present:** Fr. Terry Keehan, Pastor; Mike Meyers, Chair; Greg Flanagan; Lisa Gagliano; Ro Geisler; Krystal Harris; Eric Kramp; Joy Kull; Anne Madsen; Michael Patti

**Absent:** Sue Geegan; Luis Gutierrez; Rick McMahon

Mike Meyers called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM

**Opening Prayer:** Anne Madsen

**DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS**

I. Community Engagement Survey

Michael Patti provided an overview of the data gathered thus far. Results of special interest are as follows:

- A total of 496 responses received as of 01/24/2023
- Groups with highest response rates: Ages 65 and over (n = 262); Female (n = 325); Married (n = 386)
- Age groups with lowest response rates: 18-23 (n = 1); 24-29 (n = 3); 30-35 (n = 18)
- 18-44 age group response: n = 77
- Mass and liturgies (90%) identified as the church activities that provide the greatest source of spiritual fulfillment and meaning for respondents (Item #8)
- Connection with others (55%), contemporary worship style (44%), feeling part of a community (42%), and music and song selection (39%) identified as aspects of church that are most important to respondents (Item #9)
- The majority of respondents (42%) provided a write-in response to Item #10 in which individuals were asked to indicate their reason(s) for being less active at church than they used to be - Responses were highly variable and individualized; Home and work commitments identified as a reason for 17% of respondents (which was the option choice most frequently reported after “N/A” [write-in response])
- Factors that help individuals form a meaningful connection with a faith community (Item #11) were fairly equally distributed among option choices - “Feeling part of a community that cares about each other” was the most frequently reported option choice (54%)

- Praying (76%) and talking with a family member or friend (75%) identified as most frequently reported activities that are helpful to respondents when they experience anxiety, tension, loss, or confusion (Item #12)

Discussion of data generated. Data specific to isolated groups (e.g., specific age groups) were also reviewed and discussed.

- 18-44 age group has yielded a total of 77 responses – This represents a significant underrepresentation of young adults in data generated from the survey
- Outreach to young adults remains a challenge - Holy Family data base may not be up-to-date with current email addresses – Holy Family may not be meeting the digital communication needs in terms of advertising the survey to this population
- Exploration and proposal of ways to increase survey participation among young adults, particularly 18-35 year olds – Survey link sharing, utilization of Facebook and social media, and direct word-of-mouth contact encouraged among Table members and HF Staff to generate increased survey response from young adults
- Young adults are a population of special interest – Survey feedback needed to aid in engaging them into community life with Holy Family and supporting the future of the church - Discussion of ways to engage and support newly engaged or married couples and families with newly Baptized children – Strong emphasis on the need for “soft entry” activities and events that meet the needs and interests of young people and busy families
- Initial next step – Follow-up with a Thank You email to respondents (Group A: ages 18-35 and Group B: 36-54) and invitation to a “listening session” to share feedback in-person with Fr. Terry and other Table member(s)

Discussion of the need to broaden our outreach to teens – Patty McCarthy is newly hired Youth Minister – Overview of current activities and events for teens (e.g., Build-A-Bed) that are instrumental in revitalizing the youth ministry

Discussion of the need to consistently and frequently “tell our story” pictorially – Digital sharing of photos and information via social media outlets and the screens at Mass to highlight and encourage vibrant participation in community life at Holy Family

Lisa Gagliano has offered her professional services and is available to volunteer as a lead in disability access support to ensure that individuals with disabilities have full and equal access at Holy Family – Having a direct point-of-contact for people or families living with disability is critical to supporting an inclusive and welcoming environment at Holy Family.

## II. Pastor's Report

Table members shared experiences of Grace using the AIG format.

- **Christmas Review:** Attendance increased, however collection decreased (nearly 30K below budget and 20K less than last year); Archdiocese not likely to permit Holy Family to have a 12:30 PM Mass on Christmas Eve
- **FM Mass Review:** Attendance at the most recent FM Mass on 1/22/23 was the largest yet (nearly 1K)
- **AIG continues:** A Day of Contemplative Prayer (1/21/23) with Bill and Joanne McElroy had 55 people in attendance; Tenderness towards Creation with Dan Huntsha upcoming on 1/31/23
- **Promotion of SCC/GIGs:** A total of 70 new sign-ups; New SCC/GIGs are forming, including those centered around a particular interest/activity (e.g., Yoga, Deaf community); SCC/GIG orientation was 1/24/23
- **Pizza with the Pastor** – Gatherings for High School Sophomores – Facilitates a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- **Lent 2023** – This Lent's theme is *Compassion: Promise and Challenge* – The Lenten Social Justice Project will be in support of the Edmundite Mission in Selma, Alabama that reaches out to Black Americans living in poverty – Ash Wednesday is February 22 – Fish Fry Fridays will be Fridays, March 3 and 10 from 6-7:30 PM with Stations of the Cross to follow (additional dates may be added)
- **Food Pantry:** Holy Family is partnering with All Saints Lutheran Food Pantry located at the Partners in our Community Center in Palatine – Holy Family will be purchasing a refrigerator to allow perishable goods to be safely stored
- **Renew My Church:** Fr. Terry is participating in ongoing cohort sessions with other pastors - Fr. Terry reports that “the Archdiocese has resources for us far beyond my expectations.”
- **Catholic Schools Week:** Kathy Knuth and Cheryl Russo will speak at all Masses this coming weekend (1/28 – 1/29); The IB curriculum across all grades remains a distinguishing feature of HFCA – The IB program at HFCA has attracted 19 students who have come to HFCA directly from other countries (5 this week alone); All School Masses are an opportunity for students to take a creative lead in preparing for and participating in a vibrant liturgy experience
- **Barb and Kurt Distinguished Service Award** – Holy Family is establishing an annual award recognizing exceptional service to the Community – The award is named after Barb and Kurt Knuth, founding members of the parish - The award will be presented to the honorees at the annual Holy Family Gala – The winner will receive a custom award in recognition of their achievement – A permanent display will be placed in the Narthex to

honor the Knuths, the current year honoree, and past honorees – Announcement of this award will be this weekend (1/28-1/29)

### III. Proposed Human Concerns Ministries

Sue typed up a proposal of two new ministries for the Table's consideration:

- (1) Food Pantry (Leaders: Paul and Carol Pankros; In need of co-leaders)
- (2) Care Creation Team (Leaders: Jeff Hitz and Carrie Crall)

Review and brief discussion of the purpose, mission, and activities of these ministries – All Table members present emphatically expressed their support of both new ministries, as both align with Holy Family's Social Justice programs and provide opportunities for teen/young adult/family involvement.

### IV. Welcome Social for new parishioners

Table members are encouraged to meet Holy Family's newest parishioners and share a brief summary of their involvement in various ministries.

The socials will be at the Rectory - Upcoming dates: Saturday, January 28 immediately following the 5 PM Mass and Sunday, February 12 immediately following the 9:00 AM Mass.

### V: Communication

The next Pastoral Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 20 at 6:30 PM.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.**