

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
Worship & Sacraments Commission
Minutes of Meeting May 23, 2017

Members Present: Lois Latzy (Chair), Paul Von Erden, Beth Brink, Mike Gardner, Adriana Inman, Susan Maddox, Darlene Lewis, Dawn Mansour

Members Absent: Michelle Meyer, Christine Guerin, Corey Moore

Ex Officio Present: Jeremy Helmes (Pastoral Associate) and John Stengel (Recording Sec.)

Ex Officio Absent: Fr. Geoff Drew (Pastor)

- I. Opening Prayer/Praying for Each Other – Beth opened at 7:03 PM
 - A. Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary for her month of May.

- II. Presentation – Evangelical Catholic - Peter Andrastek
 - A. Evangelical Catholic is based in Madison WI. Peter works out of Milwaukee. They are an independent organization not connected to a diocese. Their mission is to inspire, train, and support, local parish, campus ministry, and diocesan staffs and leadership so they can become centers of formation for the laity.
 - B. The parish priests, commissions and staff help the church to grow, but they cannot do it all on their own.
 - C. The role of the laity is to reach out and become the salt and leaven to the world. To bring the Gospel out to the community where the priests and staff are unable to reach.
 - D. We are given through our baptism and confirmation the grace of state to reach out and proclaim the Gospel. The problem is that most of the laity are not aware of this mission and have no desire to share the faith with others. A strong interior prayer life is needed.
 - E. The role of Evangelical Catholic is to help and train the parish staff to work with the most engaged and faithful parishioners who can then reach out to their friends who will then reach out to their friends.
 - F. Evangelical Catholic works with about 30 parishes and several dioceses around the country. Currently working with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to train staff who will then be able to go out and train parish staffs.
 - G. Evangelization is introducing someone to your best friend. It demands that Jesus is your best friend. You cannot argue people into the faith. Sometimes you need to have answers, but often you need to offer more and better questions. A friend helping a friend become a friend with God.
 - H. How do you evangelize? - A pyramid with three levels.
 - i. At the base of the pyramid we must be connected to Jesus. If we do not know Jesus as a friend we cannot introduce Him to others. If we develop a deep interior life we can develop a deep friendship with Jesus.
 - ii. The center level is person to person. It is messy. It is becoming involved in people's lives and talking with them when they need to talk about what is going on in their lives.
 - iii. The top level is Intentional Evangelization Ministry.
 - I. If we follow these steps we can then develop a strategy. We cannot jump to the top level without first building on the first two levels.
 - J. Evangelization is the essential mission of the Church. Pope Francis said that everything the parish does is forming the members to be evangelizers.
 - K. What are the natural entry points we have in the parish? Baptisms, Weddings, First Communion, etc.
 - L. The Mass should be solemn, but people show up in Bengal's jerseys. How to deal with this is a tough question.
 - M. Jesus started small – one group of 12 guys.
 - N. Parishes need to start small.
 - i. Discern->Invite->Form->Send->Guide and Care for them
 1. Need to find the most faithful, available, and teachable people to form a training group.
 - a. Should not be looking for volunteers.
 - b. Look for people who are the most solidly formed as possible.
 - c. Use small groups and one on one. Based on friendship and trust.
 - d. Small groups by themselves will fail. You need to have one on one relationships.
 - e. First time through this process takes about a year. Next time about 6 months.
 - f. Just keep sending people out to their circle of friends.
 - g. As the initiative grows we start reaching the periphery.
 - h. We want to get outside our Catholic circles.

2. Our mission is to sanctify the temporal order.
3. "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord".
4. The fullest relationship with Jesus is being Catholic.
5. Saint Thomas Aquinas says the closer you are to the Eucharist the more Catholic.

O. Stages of development

- i. We need to deal with people without turning them off, but we must still speak the truth.
- ii. Speaking the truth but custom fit to the person you are talking with so that you do not wound them or turn them away, while protecting the integrity of faith.
- iii. We cannot reveal everything at once. We should only present what they are capable of understanding.
- iv. Goal is not to answer all their questions, but to understand their position so they feel understood. They will be much more open to understanding your position. You will then be better equipped to deal with their issues and to build trust.
- v. Help people to fall in love with Jesus first and then explain and help them understand the rules.

P. Principles of helping people grow – Baseball Diamond example

- i. Pre-Evangelization is necessary prior to the proclamation of the Gospel
 1. Build trust and friendship.
 2. Once trust is built you can move to a more personal level and a crack will open during conversations to move to the next base.
- ii. Missionary Proclamation
 1. Arousal to the beginnings of faith.
 2. They will want to learn more about the faith.
 3. Believer.
- iii. Initiatory Catechesis
 1. Primary setting for this is one on one to help build a prayer life.
 2. Perfective.
 3. Discipleship. Equip people to become missionary workers, not volunteers.
 4. Most people should not be volunteering but should be out sanctifying the world and engaging people in their lives.
 5. The goal is not to build up the parish but the Kingdom of God.
 6. The strongest parishes are the ones with outward focus. We must be focused with reaching outside of ourselves.

Q. The concept of stages is the key to evangelization

- i. We treat most people who come to baptism prep, marriage prep, confirmation prep, etc. as if they are at second base, when they are really between home and first.
- ii. Looking for solid people of faith who are the most "normal" and engaging.
- iii. Need to identify the people on second base who can be trained to engage the people between home and first base.
- iv. Important for WSC members to understand this process and start to think about the approach to worship ministries and sacramental preparation to reach both the "church" and "non-church" people.
- v. Easy for "church people" to fall into roommate mode with God. The vast majority of Catholics and volunteers fall into roommate mode. They love God, but do not really understand Him.
- vi. Looking for opportunities to evangelize in our relationships is very important and the most fruitful.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from May 02, 2017.

- A. Minutes approved with two changes.

IV. Pastoral Associate Report

- A. Jeremy will be meeting with Dave Flannigan and Emily Colpi on new approaches to liturgical hospitality.
- B. Do we want to recognize ministry leaders when they step down?

V. Continuing Business/Projects

- A. Leadership Discernment Feedback – Adriana/Dawn
 - i. Everything went great through the meetings, but responses have been slow.
 - ii. Four people have said yes. Tomorrow is the deadline.
 - iii. The breakout sessions during the Lay Leadership Summit meetings went very well and were well attended.

- B. Continued Evaluation and Discussion of Eastertide

- i. Flowers have been beautiful. Gear's Nursery was a new vendor for the flowers during Eastertide this year. Dave is a parishioner and has been providing flowers for Sundays.

C. Chapel reconfiguration feedback

- i. Town Hall meetings

1. Dawn suggest that we have a plan for how many reconfigurations with the chairs we are going to try.
2. The big question is the placement of the tabernacle.
3. The Town Hall Meetings should focus on the question: Has this trial proved that the new placement of the tabernacle more appropriately makes the Blessed Sacrament the focus of the chapel?
4. The WSC needs to decide the goal of the meetings.
 - a. Convey the history and reason for the change.
 - b. Receive feedback and have an open discussion in a constructive way.
5. Fr. Geoff and Jeremy have not received any negative feedback on the trial configuration.
6. Lois has heard a couple of negative comments.
7. Fr. Geoff received an anonymous email from someone, who is not a parishioner at St. Max, who was very impressed with the new monstrance and the placement of the tabernacle in front of the window. They feel the presentation is beautiful and thanked everyone who was a part of the change.
8. The feedback that has been received has been very positive.
9. Some negative feedback on the plain monstrance.
10. Two town hall meetings seem to be most appropriate.
11. When in the fall is a good time?
 - a. Late September or early October.
 - b. Jeremy wants to have the town hall meetings in the church.
12. More chairs will be placed in the chapel this week.

VI. New Business

- A. Discernment of Vice-Chair for 2017-2018

- i. Lois asking members to consider and discern the vice-chair position.
- ii. The goal is to have a new vice-chair in place by the end of June.
- iii. The discernment process keeps everyone in the process longer.

- B. Invite new members to the June Meeting?

- i. We will be inviting the new members to the June meeting.
- ii. Lois will contact the new members.

VII. Closing Reflection

- A. Jeremy leads prayers of thanksgiving.

- i. Thank you for Evangelical Catholic and all the work they are doing with their grass roots efforts.
- ii. Holy Spirit at work between current members and those discerning for WSC.
- iii. All the efforts for the reconfiguration of the adoration chapel.
- iv. Mike asking for prayers for his friend Paul Tensing and his son Ray who is on trial.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Stengel, *Ex Officio* (Secretary)