

St. Maximilian Kolbe Pastoral Council Meeting

December Minutes

December 4, 2019 – 7:00-9:00PM

Pastoral Council Members Present:

Tom Collins
Cathy Marksteiner

Ellen Paxton – Vice Chair
Tim Wurth – Chair

Pastoral Council Members Absent: Rich Inman, Daren Keenan, Chris Palac, Jerry Pater, Betty Ann Quinn, Eric Saddler

Notable Others:

Fr. Jim Riehle – Pastor
Evangelization and Catechesis Commission – Andrew Tebbe
Outreach Commission – Shari Skorcz
Parish Life and Stewardship Commission – Tony Ferraro
Worship and Sacraments Commission – Mary Blake
Finance Council – No Representative Present
Parish Staff Representative – Lakme Kodros
Recording Secretary – Dena Moulton

- **Opening Prayer / Mission Statement** (PC is praying for Finance Council in December)
- **Formation** Searching for and Maintaining Peace: A Small Treatise on Peace of Heart, by Fr. Jacques Philippe
Pages 49-82
- **Lightning Round**
 - Meeting next month is January 8
 - Have you selected a family for the Twinning Advent project? All PC members and any other people in leadership positions have been encouraged to participate in this project
 - No PC Christmas party, however, a summer party will be organized
- **Committee Updates**
 - **Campus Safety Subcommittee** – (Cathy Marksteiner)
 - Working SOG (Standard Operating Guide) Larger scope than initially anticipated
 - Working on succession; what professional skills are necessary
 - **PC Listening Sessions** – (Rich Inman)
 - January 25/26; PC members will also be greeters at that time; wear a nametag – all the time, is a suggestion; definitely wear a nametag the weekend of listening sessions

➤ Council/Commission Updates

- **Finance Council** – (No Representative Present – no new financial report available for this meeting)

Discussion:

Collections are down, less giving continues

General operating expenses are suffering

We live as a Parish family, living paycheck to paycheck; excess cash is non-existent

600 families/individuals consistently support the Parish

Giving a small amount of treasure is better than giving nothing at all

Personal invitation works – Invite fellow parishioners to increase and deepen their faith life through the ministries offered at St. Max

Deacon Mike Hinger is working to bring families back to the Church

Raise the Roof - Church roof replacement

Committee formed to outline a plan for a reverse tithe raffle

- **Worship and Sacraments Commission** – (Mary Blake)
 - Received a suggestion to have the lector announcements moved to before the musical prelude. After discussion, commission decided to leave it in place
 - October counts required by Archdiocese were shared. Counts have gone down over the past years but not drastically
 - Mary Ella and Fr. Riehle will meet with ministry captains and some ministers to get feedback on the new process
 - Mary Ella is working on a new process for baptisms
 - Several WSC members raised some concerns about the perfume and cologne some EMHC have been wearing
 - May be looking for a new Arts and Environments coordinator
 - Second collections required by the Archdiocese will be a basket placed in front of the baptismal font as you enter the Church instead of passing a second time
 - There are new bells in the back of Church to be rung at the start of Daily Mass if no cantor is present
 - Mass intentions are now being read during the Universal Prayer
 - Starting early next year, Eucharistic Ministers taking Communion to the Homebound will come forward to receive blessing and then be sent out from Mass
- **Outreach Commission** – (Shari Skorcz)
 - This meeting included Maddie Lees, a representative from Catholic Charities of Southwest Ohio.
 - We had a long discussion with Ms. Lees about the need for a social justice ministry. She presented us with several opportunities to begin forming this ministry. One possible avenue to increase awareness and connection is the “Discovering Mercy Series” of presentations, which includes an immersive experience. The commission will continue to discuss a route that takes steps forward in this area synergistically with our current thrusts in twinning and other new ministries.

- With the decision to no longer host the Just Try It ministry fair this year, we do still plan to make a concerted push for bathroom kits. It will likely, but not certainly, be tied in with an opportunity like the ones offered by Catholic Charities.
 - We continue to work toward a concept for increasing participation and awareness of Outreach opportunities.
 - We will be compiling 'Outreach by the Numbers' again this year. Stay tuned.
 - Faith Alliance appears to be back on track after reorganizing. St Max rep is Alicia Stollenwork. Faith Alliance has identified a need for day care certification funds and it appears to fit well within the construct of our Outreach Allocation Committee proposal evaluation criteria. While we couldn't commit to helping the alliance program at the last meeting, we will be sending them our OAC application for funding to encourage them to propose.
 - Commission members plan to attend a Sunday mass at St Leo the Great and link up with a food pantry. Date is to be scheduled.
 - We received an application for a new ministry and will be discussing at our December meeting.
 - Shari Skorcz will be the representative for Outreach to the discernment committee.
 - The "Lunch for the Homeless" ministry began service at a second food pantry. This ministry has experienced phenomenal growth in the past 12 months, serving hundreds of sack lunches per month.
- **Parish Life & Stewardship Commission** – (Tony Ferraro)
 - Jan 11 – Movie night; "The Letter" at 6:30
 - Leadership discernment – looking for volunteers
 - How to better include Parishioners – different languages in the bulletin; early stages of development
- **Evangelization & Catechesis Commission** – (Andrew Tebbe)
 - The Holy Family Ministry, while maintaining its current efforts, is looking to add efforts focused on men as spiritual leaders of the family.
 - The Men's retreat planning committee is in the initial phases of planning the onsite retreat for February 2020.
 - The Women's retreat planning committee is looking for a new coordinator.
 - Marriage Enrichment hosted a successful wine tasting with large turnout.
 - The theme of the upcoming parish mission is "Discover Love". An effort is being made to make this and future missions accessible to all ages groups.
 - The Alpha program is in a trial period to provide feedback prior to the official launch on January 11, 2020.
 - For the festival, there will be an evangelization booth with the theme of "I thirst for you" along with a Eucharist procession on Saturday, after Mass, and prior to the festival. There will also be a parish information booth separate from the evangelization booth to provide resources.
 - A pilot program (one day, December 15) is underway for Early Childhood to hold classes between Masses and to encourage parent presence in class with older children along with the focus shifting to

small group discussion or mentoring versus a program. All family members are welcome at Mass, no matter how young.

- Youth ministry will be focusing on small groups with teens of varying ages guided by a couple youth ministers to facilitate small group discussion and more frequent events.
- The parish small group effort is currently being reviewed and revised to better fit our situation at St. Max.
- The commission would like to have prayer as a part and in support of every effort at St. Max. The idea start within the commissions and ministries in the quadrant and have this flow to the whole parish. To this end, the commission has chosen intentions for which the members will be praying until the next meeting.

➤ **Pastor's Report – (Fr. Jim)**

- Together We Grow moving forward; estimates on contracting; full artistic renderings ... Hopeful for a February date to share with the Parish
- Please pray for success of campaign
- Raise the Roof; Approximately 1 Million dollars is needed for the new roof; Reverse tithing raffle will take place to raise funds for this need. Winner will receive 10% of the funds raised
- In January, every Parish family will receive two tickets to buy (or sell to someone else) at \$50 each
- Winner chosen on Fat Tuesday
- Our prayer is when we complete expansion, we will fix roof at the same time
- Mass counts – do once a month to find trends of Mass attendance

➤ **Reflections/Closing Prayer**

A PC member has requested a future discussion for an enhanced relationship with Mother Teresa school