

DRAFT

All Saints Pastoral Council

Minutes – November 14, 2018 Meeting

Present: Katherine Geraghty; Eleanore Arquette; Jane Stopher; Pat Atkinson; Kathy Gosh; Steven Diaz; Stephanie N. Davis; Dave Kirby; Murray Gould; Peter Daino; Waded Gonzalez-Candelaria; Douglas Anderson; Kathleen Owens - Facilitator; Fr. Fred Daley - Pastor

Excused/Absent: Tammy Gilbeaux; Joe Ridgway

The meeting convened at 7pm. Kathleen O. (serving for the first time in her role as Facilitator) welcomed everyone – sharing a bit about her own history: including her search – after 24 years of Parish Ministry – for a Parish & finding a home at All Saints; her appreciation of the faith and perseverance of the founding parishioners; and her appreciation of and deep respect for the collective gifts that exist in the Parish. She led the group in an opening prayer.

As a first order of business, she informed the Council that – in consultation with Fr. Fred and Jack Ziegler (outgoing Council Facilitator), she had recommended that Peter Daino (Parish Life Coordinator), Meg Ksander (Pastoral Associate) and Kathy Gosh (Director of Faith Formation) be invited to participate as members of the Council, on the grounds that, as Staff, they bring a very important sense of the pulse of the Parish to the table; noting as well the importance to their work of hearing the discussions of the Council. No objections were voiced.

Determination of Meeting Recorders: Having previously shared with the Council that she did not feel that she was able to keep accurate minutes of the meeting while also facilitating, Kathleen invited members to volunteer for the role of recorder. (She had previously arranged that Meg K. would take notes at this meeting.) Receiving no volunteers to take on the position as a regular commitment, she proposed having the position rotate among Council Members. The following schedule of volunteers emerged:

Dave Kirby – December 2018
Murray Gould – January 2019
Peter Daino – February 2019
Jane Stopher – March 2019
Kathryn Geraghty – April 2019
Pat Atkinson – May 2019
Kathy Gosh – June 2019

1. Update and Report on our Anniversary Celebration: Fr. Fred shared that he had received over-all very positive feed-back – consistent with his own positive assessment. Members of the Council echoed the comments, noting especially the gracious “ambience” in the Harrison Center: table settings w/ info tents, use of china & glassware; and the “mingling” among parishioners. Appreciation of the liturgies was also voiced – with special recognition of the contributions of Sr. Terri Laureta for her power points and other graphic design contributions. Appreciation for the program was also noted. Kathy G. reported that the space [Annex basement] for the [45] young kids was pretty tight, but that they did fine and had fun. Betty D. reported that the teens had a good time and all agreed that they performed beautifully. It

was noted that parents expressed real appreciation for the alternative activities for children and the opportunity for “adult-time.” The entertainment was highly affirmed by all and, the event declared an all-around success. Thanks were expressed to the entire Planning Committee – with special appreciation for Kathy G. and Betty D. for their care of the youngsters.

2. Update and Report on Boiler: Fr. Fred noted that the Buildings & Grounds Committee was still working out some questions about the time-frame for the project, but that it would proceed to two phases. He also shared that the cost of Phase I – @\$68,000 – will be covered from dividends from the Capital Campaign. The question of how the cost of Phase II – @\$350,000 – will be covered is still open.

In response to an inquiry, Steve Diaz, a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, assured the Council that the question of ‘energy efficiency’ had been thoroughly considered, noting, however, that because of the size, age and configuration of the building, a conventional ‘energy efficiency’ approach would likely cost more and still not be effective – though the Committee continues to study all options.

3. Update on the discussion about the Dorothy Day House: Fr. Fred reported that as determined at the last meeting, a sub-Committee (Taskforce) of Council members (including, among others, Eleanore Arquette – a Realtor and Murray Gould – a developer) and staff had toured the building at the corner of Lancaster Ave. & Lancaster Place. The assessment was that the house, which has 10 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms, plus living, office, and storage space, has a sound roof and boiler and is in generally good condition – though in need of cosmetic attention. Fred has been in touch with Mike Malara (from Catholic Charities) to find out their time-line and intentions with regard to future use of the property. Mike has indicated that – should they decide to sell the property – All Saints would be given the ‘right of first refusal.’ Three *potential* ministries, *possibly* suited to both our Parish Mission and the configuration of the house, which have emerged were briefly introduced:

- a) A suggestion raised by Interfaith Works of a need for a shelter for single and/or abused women with their children from the Syracuse refugee community.
- b) A shelter and program proposed by Mothers and Children in Crisis – a local advocacy and support group (already a 501c3) – working with women caught-up in sex-trafficking (prostitution) and drug court; to enable them to become self-sufficient as persons and more capable and resourced as parents.
- c) An initiative being pursued by the Syracuse Rescue Mission to establish a residence for homeless LGBTQ youth.

The Council affirmed Fr. Fred’s proposal that members of the sub-Committee (Taskforce), with other parishioners connected in relevant ways, would meet with representatives of each of these initiatives, with an eye particularly to the demonstrated need for, viability and sustainability of each proposal – and report back to the Council.

A meeting with representatives of the Rescue Mission is set for Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Members raised concerns about what the financial implications would be for the Parish. Fred noted that, at this point, that is up in the air since all of this is in the very early stages and that Catholic Charities has not yet made any firm determination of their plan for the building. He added a presumption that whatever initiative the Parish would take on would entail working with a group that is (or quickly becomes) a 501c3 organization with independent financial responsibility. Other questions about whether the Parish envisions becoming a “landlord” in the arrangement, etc. were raised for consideration. Murray G. – a member of the sub-Committee – reiterated that all this is in a very early “brain-storming” stage and that, at this point, we simply determined that the building is in good shape. Eleanore Arquette volunteered to do a comprehensive market analysis to present to the Council on this building so that we can work from a position of strength should negotiations for a purchase from Catholic Charities come to pass.

Fr. Fred shared a brief review of the historical connection of the property with the Parish – dating back to it’s being the original rectory for St. Therese Parish and later having been renovated into their convent before becoming the site of the initial, grass-roots Dorothy Day House shelter for women and children which was later taken on by Catholic Charities. It was noted that there’s been a long standing relationship with the neighbors – who hold a deep concern for the ministry located on the property. While there have been occasional tensions, overall, the neighbors have embraced and supported the mission of the House. The Parish – as a neighbor our self – has served as an effective mediator when problems have emerged. Fred noted that this history means that the Parish would bring credibility in the eyes of the neighborhood for whatever ministry is located in the house.

4. Update on our discussion of the Sexual Abuse Crisis and our Dale Aver’s initiative for Church reformation. Dale is looking at possible affiliations with national organizations such Call To Action, Voice of the Faithful and our local, though currently inactive, Faithful Catholics Concerned. Fred noted the value of a wider affiliation, so that any initiative(s) would have a stronger base and there would be less opportunity of dismissing them as being merely representative of the Parish (&/or a limited contingent of progressive Catholics).

Two related events are already scheduled at All Saints:

on Dec. 4 (7pm), a presentation by Fr. Roy Bourgeois, titled: “Crisis in the U.S. Catholic Church: Clericalism or the Gospel?”

AND

on Dec. 11 (7pm), a presentation by Fr. Neal Quartier, titled “Abuse Crisis in the Church & Society: How did we get here / Where are we / Where are we headed?”

It was noted that current news reports out of Buffalo have drawn focus to our own Bishop Cunningham who spent years as an administrator in that Diocese. The cover-up in Buffalo was a featured story on the national “60 Minutes” program on Oct. 28. Fr. Fred noted that formulating a response to the current crisis was a scheduled topic for the USCCB Conference just concluded in Baltimore, but had been pulled from their agenda by a directive of from the Vatican, pending the gathering of Bishops in Rome called for in February. The thought is that the Vatican is seeking a consistent world-world response to the issue. It was also noted that Pope Francis likely has his hands quite full in attempting to move toward an adequate response.

3. The Education of the Parish as we implement the new model of parish administration.

Kathleen noted that we are embarking on a “growing year” in which education of the community will be of core importance... so the question of how that is to be addressed is key to the Councils planning. Fr. Fred noted that he has asked Kathleen to address this in a homily scheduled for early December (Advent begins the first weekend of December).

Dave K. noted the practical need to clarify for the community, the duties and responsibilities of each Staff (Pastoral Team) member along the lines of listing who one calls with various questions/concerns. It was noted that an initial attempt at such clarification has been made by way of Bulletin notices (i.e. this past weekend it was noted that inquiries about use of the Harrison Center are now to be directed to Peter D.).

A related suggestion was made that the entire Parish Community would benefit from hearing the stories from our Congolese parishioners regarding their experiences – as those parishioners who do not attend the 11:30am Sunday Mass or participate in the Refugee Welcoming or Faith Formation Programs may have very little contact with/knowledge of these sisters and brother.

With reference to Peter D.’s current role as Parish Life Coordinator and eventual role as Parish Life Director, It was suggested that that his duties and responsibilities are evolving.

Meg K. noted that the ‘day-to-day’ responsibilities are currently identified well-enough that they could be communicated to the community; something that the entire Staff (Pastoral Team) can begin working toward. However, the real “educational” concern must be with communicating the larger ‘vision’ of a new model of parish leadership emerging from the PCA Plan affirmed early in the year. Fr. Fred noted that at the recent Call To Action National Conference (from which he’d just returned), a very relevant and helpful session titled: “Is the Parish Dead?” given by Debra-Rose Milavec, proposed the precise model formulated in our PCA Plan. Data from this session may be helpful in our educational efforts; a separate effort (through our association with Upstate CTA) to bring Debra-Rose M. to upstate NY is underway.

Waded G.-C. suggested that having Peter present at the weekend Liturgies would be useful in folk’s getting to know him. It was noted that the position for which he was actually hired does not include a regular role in liturgy, Fr. Fred, however, mentioned that Peter will become part of the preaching rotation.

Kathleen O. suggested that over this year there will be an on-going “interweaving” of the roles of the Pastoral Team. Kathy Gosh noted the need in our educational efforts to emphasize the role of the laity and the importance for all parishioners to recognize the need to step-forward to contribute to sustaining the work of the Parish.

Fr. Fred acknowledged that the center/core of our experience as ‘Parish community’ occurs at our weekend liturgies and that presence there is critical to The People knowing the Staff/Pastoral Team. Fr. Fred asked for the sense of the Council regarding the practice of having homilies by folks other than the Pastor (&/or ordained clerics). The Council solidly affirmed their appreciation/support of the lay preachers at All Saints.

Doug A. reminded the Council that our Parish's mission and ministry extends beyond our organizational structure and functional needs, noting that we are members of the ACTS Alliance and that these are exciting times to encourage our Parishioners to participate in the many opportunities for social justice "ministry" in the local community.

Kathy G. stressed that in our on-going effort to interweave our Congolese parishioners into the All Saints, the vital role of our Faith Formation Program be recognized. Council members shared some stories of their positive personal connections and experience with Congolese individuals and families. Peter D. shared some insights from his long experience in Africa and how knowledge of the history of the African peoples can assist us as we work to interweave our communities here at All Saints.

Meg K. asked for the Council's sense of where Parishioners currently stand in the process of understanding the vision of the PCA Plan for All Saints – given the work to communicate the vision previously done prior to and leading up to Peter D.'s hiring. The sense of the Council was – that other than as a practical matter of recognizing a shift in "who to call about what" – as a whole, the Parish is at "square one" in terms of the transition to which we have committed our self as a Parish.

It was noted that Council meetings are ordinarily scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm – though as we head into winter we will consider starting at 6:30pm. **The next meeting of the Council will be on December 19th – with an invitation to Members to join, at 6:30, in the Taizé Prayer Service in church. Regular business will begin at 7pm. It was noted that since these weeks of December are such a busy time of year, we may forego the need to meet until January.**

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Ksander