

## **Facilities Commission June 2022**

Meeting was held for facilities commission on June 8 at 5:30 and Pat Keely and Mary Ann Seiwerath were in attendance via Microsoft teams.

Both the church and rectory roofs need replacing and an application to the Snyder foundation for a grant that would cover 60% of the cost has been submitted. The rectory quote for replacement of the roof is \$70,000 and the church quote for replacement of the roof is \$215,000. There is a 10 to 12 month lead for materials which would mean the work could not be completed until summer of 2023; both facilities need the roofs patched which could buy two years worth of time. A fundraising effort will be needed.

The permit from the city is in progress for the parking lot regrade along with the rectory garden. \$70,000 is in reserve for the regrade from the completion of the Bix. A request to the city for a permit for the Food connection awning is also in process.

G St. continues to be an issue with the homeless situation and tents. If encouraged there will be a liability problem if something happens so we will probably need to step in to deter camping.

An electrical contractor is going to give a bid for improving the church lights.

## Faith Formation Commission Notes: June 6, 2022

*\*Due to Covid this meeting took place via video conference*

Present: Jerry Waterhouse, Lunette Birrenkott, Mike Maggart, Cass Hartnett,  
Mary Gorman, Allison Drago, Tom O'Loughlin

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Jerry from *Becoming Wholehearted*.

Minutes from May were reviewed and approved.

1. **Staffing Additions in Faith Formation - Update.**

A Faith Formation part-time position has been posted. Adriana has applied for it. June 13th is the next Faith Formation planning meeting with Father Elias, Sister Chris, Adriana, Heather, and Tom.

2. **The rescheduled First Communion & Kristen send-off is Sunday, June 12th.**

Allison will email Father Elias about the snacks that will be provided at the celebration following mass. Mary will help with coffee. Parents have donated money for cupcakes and a gift for Kristen. Thank you cards can be made by the kids. One of the youth (Allison's daughter did a great job!) will invite parishioners to the celebration during announcements.

3. **Book Discussion Review**

*Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler  
Parishioners were invited to join the book discussions at the Bix on May 12, 19, and 26, 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Cass welcomed participants, read some key passages, and invited small groups to begin with questions from the book. 24 people attended the first gathering, 13 the second, and 16 the third. Some people asked if there were plans to have another book discussion. The discussions were a very good way to re-engage people from a Covid-zoom-isolation period. The passages read by Cass and the questions used were a nice start, then groups let God take the reins. The open discussions were very Ignatius. The Men's group suspended their planned book discussion to join ours. We could do something similar in the fall and/or post-Easter. We need to be reconnected as a faith community. Maybe we could do two books, maybe a movie night. A powerful but heavy movie about monks killed in Algeria, *Of Gods and Men*  
An anti-war documentary, *Grounds for Resistance*  
Mary mentioned a resource for movies about faith - *Finding God in the Dark:*

*Taking the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius to the Movies*

Maybe an annual theme could focus our year (maybe this could be a parish-wide theme from the Pastoral Council and parish staff)

Movie format possibilities: The Grand and Blue Mouse can be rented inexpensively to show movies, even DVDs, for groups.

Faith-based movies can also be fun, like a singalong to *Sister Act*

4. **Parish Mission**

The Pastoral Council has agreed on three simple goals based on Town Hall feedback. The goals will focus on building parish community, stewardship, and liturgy. Mary has a calendar of ideas (Mary is the leader of SEEL in Tacoma):

- Faith formation opportunities placed on a parish calendar
- What can I do? How do I engage in the real world? What's your grace?
- Connect liturgy with St. Ignatius to strengthen our Jesuit parish identity
- LBGQT+ Advent Program
- January Examen as a precursor to Lent (Father Elias showed something from a parish in Sacramento, something multi-level)
- February Lenten Sharing Groups
- March Contemplation: Using our imaginations in prayer
- April Book Club
- September Focus on Family

Other ideas discussed: Plan ecumenical, children, teen activities. Interfaith activities at Thanksgiving (November) and the Week of Christian Unity (January). Intergenerational activities about faith. We will need other people to help coordinate the activities; we just can't rely on commission members.  
Mary: "The time is *now*."

5. **Reports**

Invite new members to be part of the commission... ask for suggestions.

LGBTQ+      20 people showed at the potluck after the 5 PM Saturday Mass. People liked gathering, especially after the Saturday Mass. Plateau Pride on Sunday. Some will go. Tacoma Pride in July.

OCIA      The Initiation Ministry Team at St. Leo's. Jerry said he wants ten people on the team. Mike has agreed to join the team. We need an RCIA book of the gospels, maybe an RCIA stand. We want to do all the rites this year. Let the parish know they're catechists too. Pray the Book of the Elect as a parish.

13 people have expressed interest in joining the process. Invite member of the Commission to join the team. There will be two meetings a month. We prep the catechumen “what’s next” all the time. It will be an exciting year. Jerry wants to increase the team from 43 to 75 members. Most sessions next year will be live.

Pastoral Council      Mike attached Pastoral Council Minutes for members to read. Thank you, Mike, for being the link between our Commission and the Pastoral Council.

Next Meetings:      If anyone can meet to discuss Mary’s ideas and Commission Goals on June 20th, 6 PM, great.

Meet August 29th, 6 PM, and September 12th, 6 PM

Jerry and Cass will continue as co-chairs for another year (standing ovation!).

Cass closed the meeting with a Lao Tau Prayer on Rulers (“A best ruler is so relaxed, he/she hardly talks...”)

## Liturgy Commission Minutes- June 7, 2022

Meeting held in the Bix at 6:30pm Members present: Connie R., Mary Anne T. Fr. Elias, Jim DeFoe, Adriana J. Conrado J (guest) and Teresa L.

We welcomed new member Kathleen Hickey via TEAMS as she was out of town. Kathleen introduced herself. She was on Liturgy Committee at St Louise (her previous) parish in Bellevue. She and her husband, Walt (who is a musician, with experience in liturgical music with youth and leading music groups) have been at St. Leo since 2018. At the end of the meeting Fr. Elias asked members their opinion to accept Kathleen as a member on commission.

Other Liturgy Commission membership update: Maureen Mohrbacher asked to extend her term after serving three years. Teresa Lynch asked to extend her role as chair for the committee guidelines extension of one year.

Opening reflection from the Gospel of the day: Matt 5: 13-16 Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. ...You are the light of the world.... Just so your light must shine before others..." How are we salt and light for others? Who has been that for us these past days? provided by Teresa

Old business for discussion and evaluation:

- Discussion and discernment continue regarding integrating Filipino Mass into a monthly Mass. There is a clear desire, and we are not ready at this time. There was discussion of moving the present monthly 5:00PM Filipino Mass to 11:30 AM with opportunity for other parishioners to join. It was acknowledged that having it earlier in the day is safer for folks so not to be leaving in the dark.
- Evaluation of Liturgy Commission display and table in gathering space: It was good socially for people to pause, get a snack, an invitation to inquire about Liturgy and take a quick view as to what we are about. Committee's feedback: this display and presentation would be better received at the Ministry Fair. People could then take more time and consider how they would like to serve on any commission and ministry in our parish. The content not inviting to parents with children (even though some children made steamers and doves). Who took notice?? It is always good to try and then revisit purpose.
- Liturgy Commission kiosk is in the works.
- Fr. Elias invited Arts & Environment to create an honoring with candles for the victims of the Uvalde tragedy. Heather & Jesse Paez painted stones and beautifully positioned stones and candles for the honoring ritual. Jim and Anna DeFoe chose the perfect music as St. Leo community prayed and sang in solidarity with the suffering families and community in Texas.
- Pentecost liturgy was intentionally planned by integrating diverse languages through Word and music environment was prepared and there was positive feedback on the hanging mobile and having the children involved in making doves and waving streamers in the procession at 9:30 Mass.
- Bread-making: Jim DeFoe is the lead with this. There is a need of about nine volunteers. Six members of parish community have volunteered. We are being sensitive and considerate in recognizing some people have allergies and some people do not prefer Eucharistic bread in this form. Gluten -free hosts will continue to be offered.

➤ **Upcoming liturgies and Masses**

June 19<sup>th</sup>: Juneteenth focus and Father's Day – these will be included in the Prayers of the Faithful

Feast of the Sacred Heart: Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm- Sacred Heart welcomes St Leo to Mass, for a gathering with special food, Mariachi Band as a day to celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

July 31- Feast of St. Ignatius – Conclusion of the Year of St. Ignatius – with Bellarmine on summer break we are looking to celebrate this with an August Picnic & Mass with Bellarmine & Kateri Circle

SPIRIT Mass – September 10 & 11 a possible date to begin a new year as a faith community of our ministerial service ( talent, treasure & time).

Discussion on standing and or kneeling during the Eucharistic Prayer:

Jim DeFoe will write a message for the worship aid. This is what was placed in worship aid for June 11 & 12: To Kneel or Not to Kneel – For many years, parishioners at St Leo have stood in respectful attention during the Eucharistic Prayer and the distribution of Holy Communion. This was originally in response to the Vatican II recommendation that worshipping communities take on the posture that best expresses respect and reverence in their own particular cultures. While some may stand in respect when someone important comes into the room or speaks, others may express their reverence by kneeling. The fact that some parishioners are moved to kneel, and others are moved to stand reflects the diversity of our experiences. Both postures are acceptable and can exist side by side.

There were many topics for discussion and dialogue at the meeting. We will meet on July 5 at 6:30PM to focus totally on reflecting on the content from Town Hall and Synod listening session to establish our goals as a Liturgy Commission for our road map for the coming two years.

Meeting ended 8:45pm

Closing prayer: Dearly Beloved, Grace and Peace to you.  
Keep silence. Cry out.

Be still. Dance.

Hunger deeply. Be satisfied.

Love kindly. Do justice.  
Walk humbly with God.

Even in darkness be light.

You are nothing but the light passing through you.

In this is your strength  
and the glory of God  
that will prevail  
to the ends of the earth.

~ *Steve Garnaas- Holmes*

Pastoral Care Commission Meeting by Zoom  
May 3, 2022

Members present: Father Xavier Benavides, Rosanne Trunk, Kathy Hitchcock, Jeanie Tackett, Colleen Mulligan, Betty Cruz, Erica Lewis, Marcia Matthaei.

Rosanne opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes from our previous meeting were approved as written.

Ministry reports:

Family Social Events: At this time, we don't have a person representing Family/Social Events. Adriana is working on Liturgy Commission. Rosanne will check to see if Conrado is going to continue in that role. The BBQ after Pentecost Mass hosted by the Stewardship Committee, raised \$800 and provided an opportunity for the community to get together.

Funerals/Colleen: Marta Cady's funeral will be at 12:10 on Thursday, June 9. Colleen is training Judith Gough and Marcia Matthaei to help her with funerals.

Afghan Project: The dad, Mutageb has some significant health problems. He will require surgeries for both eyes that have severe cataracts. When he got his minimum wage job with the laundry company, the family lost any support from DSHS. Mutageb and Latifah are taking ESL classes 4 mornings/week. The children will be in classes daily, the month of July 9a-12p. The family is a beautifully, spiritually-centered family. There is a huge commitment by the team for their child-care and drivers for their appointments.

Health Care/Kathy: Kathy is communicating with Sacred Heart parish in Uvalde, TX, offering them prayer shawls if they are interested. Fr. Eddy, the priest at Sacred Heart in Uvalde, was the priest at Rosanne's sister's parish in San Antonio. Rosanne is making arrangements to deliver the rocks that were created for those who died, when she goes to San Antonio this July for her mother's funeral.

Yvonne Combs and Kathy have updated the names of those going through annulments throughout Pierce County. On July 12, there is an archdiocesan meeting for advocates. Kathy and Yvonne would like to update our committee with that tribunal information at our next meeting following that meeting.

Kathy will call Luis to update the bulletin with Yvonne's name and phone number to call for annulment support.

Homebound/Fr. Xavier: Fr. Xavier celebrated Mass at Harborview this week. Rosanne visits Cliff and Marie Kirchmer and Colleen visits Judy Adams.

LGBQTA/ Betty: There was an LGBQTA potluck after 5 pm Mass, June 3. They will plan another, hoping to increase the numbers of those attending. The group is waiting for information from the Rainbow Center about their booth for Pride Festival.

Hospitality/Jeanie: The hospitality team is small and working a lot for funerals and special occasions. It would definitely be helpful to grow this team. There were two successful hospitality gatherings after Mass in late May.

Writing/Erica: Is receiving a quarterly update of the birthdays for cards the team sends, so hopefully they are more accurate. Erica has commandeered her mother to help writing cards. Kathy thanked her for her husband's beautiful card. There are 5 women writing cards for the ministry at this time. Erica will recruit more in the Fall.

Parish Council/Marcia, Fr. Xavier: This meeting will be Father Xavier's last meeting with us. Both he and Kevin will be leaving St. Leo at the end of June. Fr. Perry Petrich, SJ will be in Tacoma visiting family in July and August and will help out at St. Leo. Fr. Philip Burroughs, SJ will begin his ministry at St. Leo in August. Colleen Mulligan and Jack Peterson, together with other staff will work on the draft of a short-term parish plan utilizing information developed from the Synod and recent Parish Town Hall meeting. The hope is for the draft of a plan to be available by September. There is an ongoing discussion integrating the Filipino community into one of the week-end Masses and/or celebrating a multicultural Mass monthly. Kateri Circle will be celebrating fathers on Father's Day. Bellarmine is focusing on addressing the affordability of tuition for students.

#### Old Business:

There has been a request that SLP host a "Healthy at Any Size" weekly class. The person wanting to offer this class met with Fr. Xavier and Artee. Because a member of the PCC would be responsible for these weekly meetings, Jillian will be invited to meet with PCC for us to learn more about this program.

#### New Business:

In July, Marcia and others will make phone calls to a list of individuals who were nominated to run for parish council to ask them if they would consider serving on the pastoral care commission... or another commission

Synod Discussion: (Commission chairs are meeting on June 22, to report where the commission plans to focus from the Synod report.) [There is an inconsistency with the Synod report asking for "more opportunities for lay people to provide input and participate in decision-making in our local church and the greater church" and the experience of struggling to find people to serve on commissions.](#) That brings up the question: Is the commission model sustainable?

The things that draw us to church include, ["connection, service, welcoming and hospitality,"](#) which are all aspects of PCC. Much of the ministry of the PCC is outreach toward connection, service, welcoming and hospitality. The PCC needs an up-to-date data base to be able to do that.

The activities of different commissions overlap. The PCC would like opportunities to interact with other commissions. The chair of the PCC would like to have a list of members on the other commissions and their contact information so there can be more interaction and cooperation.

Next meeting: We will not be meeting in July or August. September 6, is the first Tuesday in September. We will meet at 7:00 pm. We won't know until Fall whether we can meet in person or need to meet on-line.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Matthaei

## **Social Justice Commission**

Meeting Minutes of **June 14, 2022**

Present: Joel Hellenkamp, Chairperson; Carolyn Read, Dana Myers, Rick Samyn,  
Sister Pat

Excused: Bill Orrange, Caroline Comfort

---

**New Connections:** At the invitation of Bill Orrange, Theresa Power-Drutis shared information about the New Connections ministry to women released from prison. Her information included the various services and volunteer opportunities at New Connections as well as the wide variety of services and advocacy efforts that seek to create a positive future for these women.

Theresa agreed to send Joel a copy of her PowerPoint presentation as well as the list of volunteer and advocacy opportunities that exist in the area. She noted the long history of influence that St. Leo has on the Hilltop and hopes that current parishioners will be able to continue that legacy. Theresa also offered to take small groups of parishioners on a walking tour of nearby ministries that have been initiated and/or supported by St. Leo Parish.

**E-Services:** Rick shared that the effort to combine and deepen client services in collaboration with the Food Connection continues. Over the summer, he plans to decrease the number of clients that he sees in order to have more time for planning and implementing this movement toward integrated services.

**L'Honey Project:** Rick reported that this is going well and operating in the black. He will be participating in a summit initiated by the Jesuit social justice office.

**Housing and Homelessness:** Carolyn reported that Associated Ministries is working to network congregations that want to be engaged in social justice efforts in the community. A working group has prepared a proposal for building affordable housing in Pierce County. Joel will send a recording of their meeting to Commission members.

**Advocacy:** Dana reported that FAN is engaged in multiple efforts to address gun violence. During the legislative recess, the League of Women voters is open to planning collaborative efforts with local groups. Rick will follow up with this in regard to offering St. Leo as a presentation site.

**Two-Year Plan:** Sister Pat presented a draft of a possible two-year plan based on the Commission's charge. The overall goal is to strengthen parishioner involvement in social justice issues. Commission member comments and suggestions will be incorporated into the plan. Joel will bring it to the meeting of commission chairpersons on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**G Street Encampment:** Rick explained that he has been working with the police to deal with the changes in the formerly peaceful encampment on G Street. The city's closure of other encampments has led to the introduction of new campers bringing drugs and weapons to G Street, making it dangerous for long-time campers and nearby residents as well as raising liability concerns for St. Leo.

Rick has been in conversation with Catholic Community Services regarding possible solutions to the growing challenge. He is trying to balance a just and compassionate response to long-time campers with protecting the parish from potential liability implications. Carolyn encouraged Rick to keep long-time campers in the communication loop.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:30

Over the summer, commission members will continue to plan in preparation for the Fall.

## **Stewardship Commission Meeting**

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Meeting was held in person in the Bix and on-line

**Attendance:** All members present. John Nourse, Melissa Monroe and Terry and Carolyn Wall attended virtually using Teams.

**New Member Welcome:** Betty Cruz and Paula Olson were welcomed as new members to the Stewardship Commission. Their 3-year terms begin in August. Kathleen presented the new members with a copy of the book Best Practices in Parish Stewardship.

**Gospel reading & discussion:** Carolyn read the Gospel and lead the discussion.

**Parish Council Report:** Melissa Monroe reported on the June 6 Parish Council meeting.

**Finance Council Report:** Nerissa reported on the recent Finance Council meeting. May mass attendance census count was between 43-45% below pre-pandemic counts; parish income is down about 22% overall.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Prep for Spirit Mass:** Stewardship has the lead for Spirit Mass post-Mass activities. Sub-committee was formed (Kevin Moore, Betty Cruz, Jerry Schumacher and Mike Hoag) and will meet July 7 and August 8 to prepare plan for review/approval at the August Stewardship meeting.

**Parish Goals and Objectives:** Mike Hoag will distribute the current version of the Stewardship 2-year action plan for input prior to the June 22 meeting of Commission Chairs.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Stewardship Fair:** Luis Blanco-Doring asked that the commission to begin preparing for the September 24/25 Stewardship Fair. Sub-committee was formed (Jonathan Adams, Nerissa del Rosario, John Nourse, Jerry Schumacher and Paula Olson) and will bring a proposed plan to the August Stewardship meeting.

**Departures:** Mary Hoag, Terry Wall and Carolyn Wall will be leaving the Commission having completed their 3-year terms.

**New Chair and Secretary:** Jonathan Adams will be the new Stewardship Commission Chair and John Nourse will be the new Secretary, beginning with the August meeting. The new chair will attend the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Commission Chair meeting in light of him being the one who will be responsible for action/tracking of goals progress.

**Potluck:** Potluck was held in the Bix for members attending in person.

**Next Meeting:** August 11 (following items may or may not need to be addressed)

Review guidelines, discernment process, communication process, consensus process

Review/Approve Stewardship 2-year Action Plan

Review/Approve sub-committee plans for Spirit Mass and Stewardship Fair

Review Stewardship Welcoming Plan

Review Synod Report

Review 2-year plan

ACA speakers

FUND Events