

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY TRANSITION TEAM MEETING MINUTES

The second meeting of the Catholic Community Transition Team was held on October 10, 2017 at 6:30 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Constable, NY.

Present: Fr. Tom Kornmeyer, Deacon Brian Dwyer, Jack LaCroix, Jay Brockway, Angela Bashaw, Peggy Lester, Richard Onufer, Cherie Jock, Rod Lauzon, Harold Phillips, Lucien Leroux, Joelle Lamica, Jennifer Reardon, Gerald Rufa, Lynda Jones

After opening prayer, Fr. Tom called the meeting to order and new members were introduced. Those present were given a handout listing pertinent information on each of the six parishes. Members were again urged to attend Mass at some of the churches to note size, condition, sense of community, differences in the presentation of the Liturgy, etc.

Sub-Committees

The following Sub-Committees will be formed from this group and Fr. Tom asked the members to consider what committee(s) they would prefer. There will be 4-5 people on each committee. Contact Deacon Brian with your first two choices. As members of a committee, you may enlist others outside of this group to assist you.

Administrative – mainly fiduciary responsibilities

Outreach – shut-ins, food pantry, nursing home, visits to the sick

Faith Formation - (huge need) 3 programs are running now..."Cradle to Grave". Need to definitely look outside the box. We need more adult education.

Liturgical Issues & Mass schedules – How many Masses do we need? Where? Times? If one of our priests were unable to serve, we need a plan.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR & DISCUSSION

Lay Ministry

Angie Bashaw is commissioned in Adult Formation and Lucien LaRoux in Faith Formation. Deacon noted there is a great need for Commissioned Ministers. Our Diocese would like all Catechists to be certified.

Religious Education

Bombay/Ft. Covington – 40 enrolled.....14 were Confirmed last year

Chateaugay/Burke - 26 Confirmed.....about 40 enrolled in grades 1-6 (elementary)

Constable/Westville – no figures available. Teachers are needed.

Deacon said the average class size over the past 6 years was approximately 16-20. Deacon said he can see a slight positive change in attitudes and parent attendance at Mass. How can we best support the parents of these children? How can we best serve the people of God?

Is there a push to recruit Altar Servers?

Constable/Westville has none and Bombay has none. Half of the parishes do not have any youth servers. Gerry said he would like to see Fr. Invite the children to the altar before the "Our Father" is recited. Fr. said that he does this when there are children at Mass particularly on days they attend religious ed.

What happens if we lose a priest?

First, Masses would have to be cut to three or four. One person could do 2 on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Any changes in Mass time would need to be coordinated with other close areas such as Northern Franklin County. Approximate attendance is: Burke 75-70; Bombay 60; OLOF 40-65; St. Francis 90-100; St. Patrick's 80-90; St. Mary's 85-120. The consensus was that we do not need 3 Saturday Masses. Having Sunday evening Mass was discussed. There is a plan that would allow for only 3 priests in Franklin County. In 10 yrs. or less, there will be only 35 priests in the Diocese. This topic is high priority.

What is needed financially to sustain the churches over the next 2-3 years?

Financial reports for each church will be available at the next meeting. Fr. explained that 1/3 of contributions goes to the Diocese. A suggestion was made to omit the section "Please check amount enclosed" from the front of the envelopes in the future. Because the envelopes for 2018 are already ordered, this request will not be carried until 2019. It was also suggested that the weekly contributions from Bombay be listed in the bulletin. Eventually Bombay and Ft. Covington will be merged into one Corporation for financial purposes. Bombay generates the least revenue of the six churches.

Would it be possible to have all the Confirmation students attend Mass before their religious education session?

A suggestion of 45 minutes at Mass and 45 minutes at class was well received. This falls in line with a suggestion to hold occasional Youth Masses made at the September 19th meeting .

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 30TH AT 6:30 AT ST. FRANCIS
Inform Deacon Brian of your first two choices of sub-committees.

- ✓ (Ex. Ministries & Service, Faith Formation, Outreach, etc.)
- ✓ Everyone should have a copy of the Guidelines & Policies for the Formulation of Pastoral Plans for Parishes that was distributed at the first meeting.
- ✓ Bring your ideas for establishing Saturday Mass times and locations in the event we are left with one priest.
- ✓ Think outside the box relative to Faith Formation & Adult Ed

Fr. Tom Kornmeyer
Pastor

Lynda Jones
Recorder