

## Minutes of PPC Meeting – 05/18/2023

Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory

**Present** – Father Joe, Paul Dufresne, Rose Grieco, Katie Pomroy, Kathryn Moery, Michael Griffin, John Riordan, Jorge Otero.

**Opening Prayer** – Paul’s prayer offering shared with the council how poetry can be in the form of prayer. He talked about the poet Anne Porter who had written poetry since she was a child but never published her works until much later in her life. She wrote very touching poems highlighting faith, suffering and the wisdom of age. Paul read one of Anne Porter’s poems titled “Music” where she recalled weeping as a child while her mother played the piano. She wrote how music at its most beautiful opens a wound in us. Anne Porter died in 2011 at the age of 100.

**Minutes** - Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed without objection.

**Wedding & Baptism Ministries** - Deacon Kevin was invited to join the council to speak about his role in preparing a bride and groom for their wedding ceremony and for parents who were preparing for baptism. He talked about how he tries to make marriage ceremonies more personalized to include the couple’s own words about their relationships and commitment to each other. Deacon Kevin shared a few emails he received after the marriage of a bride and groom thanking him for the lovely ceremony. The council asked questions on how we could further engage with couples and families after weddings and baptisms, as well as RCIA candidates, to invite them to join in our parish ministries and events. Father Joe shared how he encourages young couples preparing for marriage to say grace together, pray together and to communicate with each other about their prayers to help them to continue to grow in faith as a couple.

**Book Discussion** - We briefly discussed chapters 6-8 of *No Silver Bullets*. Chapter 6 talked about using a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis before presenting new ideas as a way to systematically think through and discern new ideas. Chapter 7 referenced creating our church’s vision. The author writes, “simply put, vision is about painting the dreams that God has laid on your heart for all to see.” Chapter 8 writes about the eight output goals, or signs of maturity, for a disciple which include bible engagement, obeying God and denying

self, serving God and others, sharing Christ, exercising faith, seeking God, building relationships, and being unashamed (transparency).

### **Old Business:**

**Welcoming new parishioners review and way forward** - Kathryn shared how Elevated Hospitality Sunday was enjoyed by all. The Welcome Committee will continue to host this event every six to nine months. Kathryn suggested hosting the next welcoming event after the 5 o'clock mass on a Saturday or Sunday. The council suggested continuing the church tours. The council also discussed acknowledging newly married couples at a mass during Valentine's Day weekend for a special blessing.

**Results of call for new PPC members** - We have three interested candidates who will be going through the discernment process.

**Lighting of stained-glass windows** - The council discussed the option of some form of artificial light or embellishment of the natural light. This will be discussed further with the finance committee.

### **New Business:**

#### **New year considerations -**

- New leadership for Hospitality Sunday. There will be no Hospitality Sunday offered for the months of June and July.
- Kathryn will be working with the Hospitality Committee regarding the next event.
- The council will continue further discussion of solar panels which will involve the finance committee for approval.
- When the new council resumes in September, they will work with the Alpha leadership team towards further discipleship in and outside of our Assumption parish.

**Closing Prayer** - Father Joe thanked the Holy Spirit that guided us through another year on the council and prayed for the new parish council members in their works towards discipleship.