

**Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
October 26, 2017 (revised)**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Russell at 4:30 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Sonya Skinner (3), Steve Russell (2), Dawn Houska (2), Megan Bristow (2), Mary Jane Reif (1), Mike Sponsler (1), Tabatha Odens (1), Father Steve, Todd Wentworth, Francie Peterson, Lee Ann Sticha, and Carol Gaffaney. **Absent:** Dan Hilback (3) and Tammy Huss (3).

**Opening Prayer**

The meeting began with prayer and sharing.

**Agenda and Minutes**

The agenda for the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and the minutes of the September 28, 2017 meeting were approved by consensus.

**Sister Parish Discussion** – Lee Ann Sticha from the JPIC Committee spoke about the committee’s exploration of entering into a Sister Parish Partnership. This is a partnership between a parish in our diocese with another Catholic parish in the state, country or outside the country. It is not a financial sponsorship; it has the goal of creating bridges with other parishes, to create relationships with them and is entered into by mutual agreement of both parishes. Our parish would work with the Mission Office of our Diocese to set up a partnership.

Currently, there are 8 such partnerships in the St. Cloud Diocese; seven of them are with Homa Bay, Kenya and one with Red Lake, Minnesota. Lee Ann noted they have surveyed the 8 parishes that have partnerships and received feedback from 5 of them. She reported on the responses and noted the importance of having the entire parish “on board.” Lee Ann will summarize the responses and forward the document to Father Steve, and he’ll share with pastoral council members. Sister Rita, Father Steve and Lee Ann met to discuss potential opportunities. They are proposing exploration of a partnership with the San Lucas Mission in Guatemala.

The pastoral council supported the JPIC committee’s continued exploration of a Sister Parish partnership. There will be a meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., most likely in the Great Hall, with Bill Peterson of the Friends of San Lucas Mission. Further details will be shared when finalized.

**Purpose of Pastoral Councils** – Steve Russell and Sonya Skinner led discussion on chapters 1 and 2 of “Making Parish Councils Pastoral.” At the next meeting, Mary Jane Reif will lead the discussion of chapter 3, and Dawn Houska will lead chapter 4 discussion.

**Administrative Report & HR Report**

Todd Wentworth gave some history on the North Building that has been used by the St. Mary’s boy scouts and the senior high religious education classes as well as for other activities. The building was built and owned by Walter and Margaret Leuthner. Walter operated a business called the “The Fish House” from the building. The Church of St. Mary purchased the building & property in 1995 on a contract for deed. A sign on the building was taken down when the building was cleaned this summer. Todd asked for guidance on what to do with the sign. The pastoral council recommended to not put the sign back up because of the multiple uses of the building and to meet with interested parties to have further input and to reassure them of our continued support of their organization.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Cemetery Committee-** Steve Russell.

Steve noted that a lot of people came to help with fall clean-up at the cemetery, possibly due to the date being during the MEA weekend. They will plan to hold the fall clean-up on MEA weekend again next fall.

**Liturgy Committee** – Tabatha Odens.

Tabatha reported that the committee is working on holding mini-retreats to train ministries. The training sessions will be open to all people as an adult formation opportunity.

**Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Committee**- Dawn Houska and Tabatha Odens.

Dawn said the committee heard a speaker from the Fergus Falls Someplace Safe office at the last meeting who spoke on Sex Trafficking of People. The committee felt the topic should be shared with parents and students.

**Stewardship Committee**- Tammy Huss.

Minutes of their last meeting were reviewed. The Stewardship Fair will be held the weekend of November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Todd Wentworth said the Legacy Dinner was held Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and very positive remarks were received. At this time, the committee is not planning to hold a legacy dinner in 2018.

**Board of Education Committee**- Sonya Skinner.

The committee is reviewing its bylaws and updating their long range goals and accomplishments. Francie noted there has been a good turnout for the two 50/50 sessions that have been held. Megan Bristow asked if the Board of Education had considered having a preschool. Sonya and Francie said they would put the topic on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Parish Life Committee**- Megan Bristow and Mary Jane Reif.

The Oktoberfest will be held October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m. in St. Mary's school gym.

**Evangelization Committee** – Mike Sponsler and Tammy Huss.

Minutes of their last meeting were reviewed. Mike said the committee is working on defining their purpose and developing a mission statement. They discussed helping people encounter Christ and to invite others to have a relationship with Christ.

**Finance Committee**- Todd Wentworth and Dan Hilback.

Todd said the lights in the school gym and the education center foyer as well as a few other smaller locations have been switched to LED.

**Human Resources Committee**- Todd Wentworth.

Janell Eddy has been hired and begun working as the parish secretary. Todd noted that some people who were being paid as independent contractors have been changed to a part-time employee status.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Thanksgiving Dinner**- Todd reported that Phil and Bonnie Broman, John and Melanie Boesen, Joe and Betty Roers, and Mike Savageau have volunteered to lead the Thanksgiving Dinner planning/serving. Kevin Richmond will be the cook and Fausto Lopez will help with the cooking. The turkeys will be defrosted and roasted at Luthercrest and St. Mary's School.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Inspired to BE** – A presentation "Ending the Silence" is scheduled at St. Mary's for November 8<sup>th</sup> by Kara Bennett, Coordinator of Suicide Prevention Programs for NAMI-Minnesota, on the topic of mental illness.

The meeting adjourned with the Beatitude Blessing Prayer. The next meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 30.

Carol Gaffaney  
Recording Secretary