

**Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
November 30, 2017**

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

**Roll Call**

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

**Opening Prayer**

The meeting began with prayer and sharing.

**Agenda and Minutes**

The agenda for the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was approved by consensus. Revisions were made to the draft of minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting, after which the minutes were approved by consensus.

**Fall Deanery Meeting**

As the diocese works towards its goal of having a plan for parishes in the diocese by 2019 to prepare for the expected decline in the number of priests, members of the Diocesan Planning Council held a meeting with the local deanery in Alexandria. Father Steve said approximately 80 people attended. Participants were asked to consider five questions individually and then to discuss their thoughts in small groups. Representatives from the small groups then summarized their discussion with the larger group. The data was collected and will be compiled and reviewed by the Planning Council and discussed at an upcoming meeting early next year.

**Purpose of Pastoral Councils** – Mary Jane Reif led discussion on chapter 3 of “Making Parish Councils Pastoral.” The council also discussed chapter 4. At the next meeting, Dan Hilback will lead the discussion of chapter 5, and Mike Sponsler will lead discussion of chapter 6.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Cemetery Committee-** Steve Russell.

Minutes of their last two meetings were reviewed. Leon Breun is officially the Cemetery Sexton. Three or four new committee members were appointed. The committee is working on a review of cemetery rules & regulations and updating the pricing list for the cemetery.

**Liturgy Committee** – Tabatha Odens.

Tabatha reported that the committee is holding a mini-retreat on December 9 to train ministries. The training sessions will be open to all people as an adult formation opportunity. The committee is working on improving the Eucharistic Minister process when ministers leave the altar to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ, developing a sub list, and stressing to people the importance of getting a sub and/or letting their captain know that they will be gone. The committee is also starting to talk about ways to protect people while they are at a church service (in light of the recent church shooting).

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

Minutes of their last meeting were reviewed. Tabatha said the committee is getting ready for the Catholic Advocacy sign-up. She reported that there will be a presentation about the Guatemala Sister Parish idea on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m.

**Stewardship Committee-** Tammy Huss.

Approximately 30 individuals signed up at the Stewardship Fair to become involved with something new. Discussion was held on ways to attract more people to attend the Stewardship Fair.

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

Minutes of their October meeting were reviewed. Sonya noted that only two people were present for the November meeting, so discussion on a preschool was postponed.

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

Minutes of their last meeting were reviewed. Some of the feedback on the Oktoberfest were concerns about the "free will" basket that was placed on the table, when the event was advertised as free. In the future, if there will be a free will offering basket, we need to make sure advertisements state that. Megan noted that there will be a Movie Night for adults on January 19<sup>th</sup> in the Great Hall. Popcorn and lemonade will be served.

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

The committee is brainstorming ideas and ways to proceed. Tammy is getting ideas about ways to get teens and young adults more involved. Mike said they are reviewing a book on the goals of an evangelization committee.

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

Todd said maintenance work is being done on the baptismal font. He also noted that the lighting in the sanctuary is now obsolete; they cannot buy bulbs for the fixtures anymore.

**Human Resources Committee-** Todd Wentworth - No report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Inspired to BE** – More speakers and presentations are being arranged. Discussion followed on the last session about mental health.

**Signage on the North Building** – The pastoral council is in agreement that the old boy scout sign should not go back on the north building and to put up a sign with the name (when that is decided) of the building.

**RCIA** – Father Steve said that Rita Kostreba has come forward to work with children who have not yet been baptized.

The meeting adjourned with the Beatitude Blessing Prayer. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Carol Gaffaney  
Recording Secretary