

The Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2019

Present: Father Steve, Todd Wentworth, Mike Sponsler (3), Tabatha Odens (3), Rita Winters (2), Jerry Kostreba (2), Mary Gorghuber (1), Randy Kinney (1), Francie Peterson and Carol Gaffaney.

Absent: Mary Jane Reif (3), Janet Schiltgen (2) and Jodi Rehovsky (1).

The meeting was opened with prayer and reflection.

The agenda for October 24, 2019 and the minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administrative Report

- Online Giving Update – Todd said the parish’s online electronic giving option was used successfully for Faith Formation classes this fall. He noted that people who have previously signed up for an automatic payment from their bank account for Sunday offerings will be encouraged to change that to the electronic giving option set up through the parish’s website. This will eliminate a bank fee that the parish is currently being assessed for the automatic payments.
- Safety and Security Update – All entrances/exits on the church and school campus have been labeled by a letter and number (ex. A1, A2, B1, etc). The committee worked with law enforcement officials to develop a safety and security plan. Training for Emergency Preparedness for St. Mary’s Safety and Security Response Team volunteers will take place in November. Areas covered in the training are evacuations, medical emergencies and shelter in place. Four sessions on different days and at different times will be offered so volunteers can select one that fits their schedule. The committee is creating a pamphlet with a guide for safety and security procedures and these pamphlets will be placed in various locations around the campus.
- Continuing Education – Todd reviewed some of the training, conferences, and/or online training sessions that parish staff have been taking part in.
- Coffee and Rolls – Todd noted that groups have been secured to serve Coffee and Rolls after the Sunday 8am and 10am masses for the first, second and third Sundays of the month; the fourth Sunday volunteer slot is open. A suggestion was made that possibly the standing committees of the parish could sign up for the fourth Sunday of one month of the year to serve Coffee and Rolls. Coffee and Rolls are not held when there is a pancake breakfast, Block Party, etc. scheduled. Todd asked pastoral council members to bring this idea to their liaison standing committee to see if they would sign up for a Sunday. If they are interested, they are asked to give their top three choices of a month that they would want to serve to Janell Eddy. It was decided that the pastoral council will serve on Sunday, November 24th. Initial volunteers for the timeslot after the 8am mass was Mary Gorghuber, and for serving after the 10am mass, Randy Kinney, Rita Winters and Tabatha Odens. More planning will take place at the next pastoral council meeting on November 21st.

Committee Reports

- Cemetery – Twenty-seven volunteers worked at the cemetery on clean-up day.

- Liturgy – Mary said that more eucharistic ministers are needed for the 5pm and 8am masses. Dawn Houska is taking the lead role for CLOW. Many compliments were received for the WINE event. For upcoming events, it was noted that the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will be held at St. Mary’s Church this year.
- JPIC – Tabatha said November is St. Mary’s month for donating to the Food Shelf; it was also noted that people can designate that their donation is for the Alexandria High School’s Food Shelf. It was also reported that new recycling containers will be put in place.
- Stewardship – Jerry said the group is continuing their study of the *Grateful and Giving* book. A Stewardship participation form will be included in an upcoming bulletin. People can then fill it out and return it; the form is also available to be completed online.
- Board of Education – Mike said the school on-site accreditation visit is being held this week. A Young Adult Night will be held November 16th in the Great Hall as part of the goal of reaching out to young adults. It has been decided to not charge for Sunday School and, therefore, has refunded the \$90 fee paid by parents.
- Parish Life – The bus trip to Oktoberfest in New Ulm had to be cancelled due to the weather.
- Finance – Weekend mass attendance and offerings are still falling short of projections. The Finance Committee is considering potential uses for the Endowment Fund set up by Father Al Ludwig. Discussion was held by pastoral council members on additional ideas.

Old Business

- Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization – No update.
- Central Lakes Area Catholic Community (CLACC) Update – Some of the CLACC members attended a presentation with a speaker addressing areas such as How to Collaborate, Getting to Know One Another, a Foundation of Trust, and Identifying Goals. CLACC has submitted their plan and rationale to the Diocese.
- Need for Volunteers – The parish is still looking for a volunteer or volunteers to take over the leadership of the Caring and Sharing Room. The leadership role may be broken down into 2 or 3 positions.
- Potential State Mandated Sex Education – Bruce Becker put together an information piece on the proposed changes in the teaching of sex education at Minnesota’s public schools. The House File number is CSE1414, Comprehensive Sex Education. Pastoral Council members were asked to look at the information on the parish website and give ideas on how to get this information to parents.
- Parish Mission – Father Steve asked for feedback on the retreat presented by Mark Price. Comments were: “It exceeded our expectations; many people attended all four nights; hospitality was very good; kept people’s interest; and it created hunger for more.”
- Father Steve said several sessions of *Theology Thursdays* have been scheduled and shared a handout of upcoming events.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. with the Prayer for Spiritual Freedom.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary