

The Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes November 21, 2019

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

The meeting was opened with prayer and reflection.

The agenda for November 21, 2019 and the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administrative Report

- Online Giving Update – Mike distributed instructions to sign up for online giving.
- There will be a celebration of the newly renovated chapel at Knute Nelson on December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. Rita will represent the Pastoral Council at the celebration.

Committee Reports

- Cemetery – It was noted that the fees charged for the cemetery are for the right to be buried/interred at the cemetery and not for buying a piece of land, etc. Janet noted the committee is working on reclaiming burial plots purchased long ago that have not been used and where there is no contact information for the person(s) who originally purchased it.
- Liturgy – Mary said the committee is preparing for the Advent and Christmas season which are coming soon. A booklet is being prepared for the different ministry areas.
- JPIC – Tabatha said the JPIC Committee will serve Coffee and Rolls on the fourth Sunday of December. Pete & Julie Olmscheid and four additional people will be taking charge of certain areas for the Caring and Sharing Room. The Inclusion Network is sponsoring a “Complexity Initiative Potluck” gathering on December 16th at 5:30 p.m. in St. Mary’s Great Hall.
- Stewardship – Jerry shared information about the results received in the Fall Stewardship participation forms, in both paper form and online. Kathy Ballou will record the information and send new volunteer contact information to the committee chairs as appropriate. As follow-up to the review of the *Grateful and Giving* book, a meeting and discussion was held on ideas for moving forward, for example, improving hospitality and communication, and getting information out to people of the parish. Members were asked to share these ideas with the respective committees on which they serve. The Stewardship committee will serve Coffee and Rolls the fourth Sunday in January.
- Board of Education – Mike said a very positive report was received from the MNSAA Accreditation Board for the school; there are few minor actions to complete. The Board has been discussing security for the school building. Troy Sladek is working on a long-term plan that will address this area. The Young Adult Group meeting was held last weekend with eight people attending. They are interested in holding more group meetings. Information was gathered from them on what they would like to see or have available for their age group. The children of St. Mary’s School will be doing a presentation of “Willy Wonka” at the Andria Theatre on February 13th. The Board of Education will serve Coffee and Rolls on the fourth Sunday of February.

- Parish Life – Mary Jane reported that preparations are completed for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service and social. Nearly all volunteer positions are covered for the Thanksgiving Dinner. The Angel Tree will be set up starting the weekend of November 30th and December 1st. United Way is coordinating this effort for the community to streamline the efforts of all the various agencies, civic groups and churches involved.
- Evangelization – Jodi said the committee’s goal for this year is creating discipleship. She said everyone should be involved in increasing hospitality at St. Mary’s by welcoming people at church, especially new parishioners and people they don’t know yet, making them feel a part of the church; that personal connection with people is so important. The committee is looking at new programs for next year.

Old Business

- Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization – No update.
- Central Lakes Area Catholic Community (CLACC) Update – Rita reported on their recent meeting. Within a year, the committee wants to have a 2-priest schedule and a 1-priest schedule ready to use.
- The December 5th session of Theology Thursday will be “Practical Catholic Parenting.”
- Potential State Mandated Sex Education – Information on the proposed changes in the teaching of sex education at Minnesota’s public schools can be found on the parish website (Get Involved/Committees/JPIC/Sanctity of Life; click on the box CSE-HF1414 at the top of the page). Pastoral Council members discussed ways to inform parents about the proposal being considered as a mandate for public schools.
- Coffee and Rolls – The pastoral council will serve on Sunday, November 24th. Members indicated when they can help serve. Janell Eddy will keep track of committees signing up to serve Coffee and Rolls on the fourth Sunday.

The meeting adjourned with the Prayer for Spiritual Freedom.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary