

The Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2019

Roll Call

Present: Father Steve, Todd Wentworth, Dawn Houska (3), Megan Bristow (3), Steve Russell (3), Mike Sponsler (2), Mary Jane Reif (2), Rita Winters (1), Jerry Kostreba (1), Janet Schiltgen (1), Francie Peterson, and Carol Gaffaney. **Absent:** Tabatha Odens (2).

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The agenda for March 28, 2019 and the minutes of February 28, 2019 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administrative Report

- **Annual Planning** - Todd reported that the Finance Committee met last night and approved the budget for next year. The budget reflects a projected 2.5% increase in offerings, a 3.0% increase in school tuition, and a very slight increase in school enrollment. It was decided to hold off on charging an increased amount of school tuition for children of non-active/non-parishioners at this time. Todd also shared the physical plant major projects for the next year.
- **Safety & Security Update** – The parish’s Emergency Preparedness Plan is being updated, with discussion on security cameras and ways to make church entrances more secure.
- **Newsletter Feedback**_ The parish received good feedback on the recent newsletter sent to parishioners.
- **Volunteers** – Father Steve noted he would like a photographer to take photos during our Holy Week and Easter services.

Committee Reports

- **Cemetery** – A large map of the cemetery (showing where you are) and a 3-ring binder containing a directory will be put up at the cemetery. A new sign will be put up at the entrance to the cemetery. The sign that had been at the entrance will be moved over by the kiosk map. A ramp and hand railing will be installed by mausoleums 3-4. The committee agreed to offer any religious catholic clergy a plot at our cemetery, including priests and nuns.
- **Liturgy** – They are having discussions about establishing a safety protocol identifying who will make the decision when there are weather issues affecting parish activities.
- **JPIC** – Rita Winters reported that Rita von Holtum and a subcommittee are working on putting together thoughts on a quality program to address racism in our community. The subcommittee on environmental awareness is working on a plan to use more environmentally safe products for the Block Party. The committee on Global Community Partnership reported that six participants will be going on the Guatemala trip.
- **Board of Ed** – Megan said the group is discussing programming for 18-to-25 year-old parishioners. The Spanish teacher at St. Mary’s School has resigned; the upcoming vacancy will be posted for replacement.

- Parish Life – Mary Jane reported there was a good turn-out at Mardi Gras event. The committee continues to look for a new chairperson.
- Community Liaisons were asked to encourage their committee to send their minutes to Janell Eddy so they can be shared with the pastoral council.

Old Business

- **Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization** – No update.
- **Area Catholic Communities Update** – Father Steve said the three representatives from our parish who will serve with him on an area planning council are Rita Winters, Mary Jane Reif, and Todd Wentworth. A training meeting for area planning councils is being scheduled, including a review of the expectations for the council.
- **Culture of Respect** - The first Culture of Respect session was held March 1st. A follow-up letter will be sent to those who attended. Father Steve will include information in his homilies on the core values of compassion & kindness, community, respect & trust, integrity & honesty, and justice.
- **Skill Set Inventory** - It was suggested there should be a discussion regarding the stewardship of sharing your time and talent and what kinds of skills (from volunteers) are needed at the Church of Saint Mary this year.

New Business

- **NorthStar Christian Academy** – Father Steve asked for feedback and advice on concerns expressed about groups affiliated with St. Mary's Church using the NorthStar Christian Academy and Sports Complex.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary