

The Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2019

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

The meeting was opened with prayer and reflection.

The agenda for May 23, 2019 (with the addition of discussion on bringing small children to church) and the minutes of April 25, 2019 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administrative Report

- **Planning** - Todd reported on the last staff meeting where there was discussion on how to use The Culture of Respect in our parish for the upcoming year.
- **Quarterly Newsletter** – News items from the school will be added to the parish newsletter.

Committee Reports

- **Cemetery** – Janet said they are pouring cement for the kiosk and sign at the cemetery. They should be finishing up the work by Saturday. The kiosk will include a map of the cemetery and a directory to locate the site of a grave. It is color coded to make it easier to find the location. On the parish's website there is also a way to look up grave sites. It is under the "St. Mary's Cemetery" heading and a search of names listed alphabetically can be viewed from the drop-down menu. Cement for a ramp is also being poured by mausoleums 3-4.
- **Liturgy** – Father Steve said the group will be discussing how to incorporate The Culture of Respect into each liturgical area.
- **JPIC** – Tabatha reporting that the committee is continuing their discussion on racism and deciding what will be presented in that regard. The Sanctity of Life committee is working on arranging speakers for more sessions in Alexandria. The participants who went on the mission trip worked hard while they were there and are fired up.
- **Stewardship** – Steve said there will be a stewardship conference in Kansas in July and some of the committee members are planning to attend. The committee is finalizing details for the fall Stewardship Weekend.
- **Board of Ed** – Megan said current enrollment for kindergarten this fall at St. Mary's School is at 32, with the overall enrollment slightly down right now. They are looking at a new curriculum for second grade first communion participants. There are 55 signed up at this time for Vacation Bible School. The committee has scheduled a meeting to discuss programming for 18-to-25 year-old parishioners.
- **Parish Life** – Mary Jane said the Easter Vigil social was well attended and received many complements. Upcoming events include celebrating Father Bob Kieffer's 50th anniversary of ordination on May 28th and Father Steve's 40th anniversary on June 9th. Angie Anderson will

be the new chair of the Parish Life Committee; Virginia Mack will continue as secretary/treasurer. Savannah Aultman will send out a Parish Life survey and invite people to join the committee. The Block Party will be held September 8th.

- Evangelization – Jerry reported that a committee meeting is scheduled for June 7th.
- Finance – Mike said the committee is keeping a close eye on attendance and giving. Raffle tickets are available for parishioners to pick up in the gathering space of the church. Todd asked for thoughts on reporting weekly income to parishioners.
- Human Resources – Todd noted that they are working on updating job descriptions for all parish/school employees (other than teachers). He also reported that the parish has changed companies for its health savings accounts which they feel will improve employee benefits. If an eligible employee enrolls in health insurance, they can participate in a health savings account through the parish.

Old Business

- **Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization** – No update.
- **Area Catholic Communities Update** – The area planning council met last night and will meet five times over the summer. They are currently prioritizing the tasks of the council.
- **Parish Pastoral Council Elections (May 26th)** – The discernment and election will be held this weekend after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Great Hall. Pastoral council members volunteered to help with set-up and the election. Coffee and rolls will be served during this time.

New Business

- **Bringing Young Children to Church** – Council members discussed concerns raised about young children allowed to leave the pew and wander around during the Mass. It is a safety issue as well as being a disruption to the Mass. Father Steve said the issue has been addressed with the family and things have improved.

The meeting adjourned with the Prayer for Spiritual Freedom. The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 27th (along with social activities) at Father Steve's house. Current pastoral council members who attend should bring a dish to share (3rd year members – a dessert, 2nd year members – an appetizer, and 1st year members – a salad) for a potluck dinner.

Results of May 26, 2019 Pastoral Council Election - The following people were elected to the pastoral council for the 2019-2020 year: Mary Gorghuber, Randy Kinney and Jodi Rehovsky.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary