

The Church of Saint Mary
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2019

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

The meeting was opened with prayer and reflection.

The agenda for September 19, 2019 and the minutes of the August 22, 2019 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administrative Report

- Online Giving Update – The option to parishioners of online giving started last month. This is set up through the parish website under the Giving tab. The website has been structured so this feature can also be used to pay for Faith Formation classes and for church events that have a fee.

Committee Reports

- Cemetery – Janet noted that more grass seeding has been done at the cemetery. There is a clean-up day scheduled for October 17th.
- Liturgy – To help people prepare for the Parish Mission coming on October 20-23, the parish is hosting TV Tuesdays. The topics will explore life in the early church after Christ's ascension by viewing select sections of the series A.D: The Bible Continues. The remainder of the sessions will continue on September 24, October 1, 8 and 15. Mary noted that the WINE (Women in the New Evangelization) Catholic Women's Conference, Anchor of Hope, will be held here at the Church of Saint Mary on Saturday, October 5, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- JPIC – Tabatha said the JPIC Committee is looking for a few more people to join the core JPIC group. At 6:30 p.m. on October 3rd, JPIC is showing the documentary "Bag It" in the Great Hall, discussing the impact that plastic materials are having on our environment. Fair Trade items will be set up in the Great Hall on Sunday, November 17th after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. masses.
- Stewardship – Jerry said the group is studying the Grateful and Giving book. He noted that over 20 people are attending the Dave Ramsey University Finance Class. Stewardship weekend will be October 12th and 13th with a roll call of ministries. Sign-up will be held on October 26th and 27th.
- Board of Education – Mike said the school's focus is on the accreditation review process; documents are being assembled. There will be a site visit in October. Todd noted that the committee has been discussing ways to reach out to young adults. Sunday School numbers are low this fall; only about 20 are enrolled. The registration fee to attend Sunday School is \$90/year. More advertisement is needed for Sunday School and other Faith Formation opportunities.

- Parish Life – Mary Jane said the Block Party was successful. More raffle tickets were sold than last year. A New Member Sunday is scheduled for October 6th. The Parish Life Committee is sponsoring a bus to go to Oktoberfest in New Ulm on Saturday, October 12. They need at least 40 people to sign up in order for this to take place.
- Evangelization – Jodi said this will be a year of brainstorming for the committee to look at ways to increase the ‘fire’ for Jesus and increase participation in our parish.

Old Business

- Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization – Father Steve reported that the bishop said they are getting closer to a settlement.
- Central Lakes Area Catholic Community (CLACC) Update – At the next committee meeting, they will review a draft of the pastoral letter being prepared for submission to the bishop detailing their goals and data to support their recommendation for the number of priests as well as how they reached that conclusion.
- Need for Volunteers – The parish is still looking for volunteers to take over the leadership of the Caring and Sharing Room.
- Potential State Mandated Sex Education – Mike brought information to the St. Mary’s Board of Education about proposed changes in the teaching of sex education at public schools in Minnesota. There are many concerns that the material is not age appropriate for the age group (4th grade) they are targeting. It was stated it would be better to allow parents to “opt in” rather than “opt out” for their children to attend a class if this new curriculum is approved. The Sanctity of Life Committee will get information out to parents about the legislation that is being discussed and/or proposed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. with the Prayer for Spiritual Freedom.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary