

The Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2020

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 January 9, 2020 and the minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administrative Report

- Coffee and Rolls – The Liturgy Committee will serve Coffee and Rolls April 26th. Janell Eddy is keeping track of committees signing up to serve Coffee and Rolls on the fourth Sunday. The open months are: March, May, June, July, August and September. The Stewardship Committee will be signing up for a different month being January will be served by the St. Mary's School staff/parents being it will be Catholic Schools Week.

Committee Reports

- JPIC – Tabatha said Father Bob will be offering several sessions of “Open Wide Your Hearts.” There is a committee looking at the possibility of scheduling a Youth Trip to the mission near San Lucas, Guatemala, to continue building a relationship with the people there. It was noted that Sister Rita has a collection of books on social justice issues. JPIC is looking for a place to have a display of books that are related to their current discussions. It was suggested to place some books on the shelf to the left of the door to the Great Hall kitchen. Father Steve shared information from Ken Howell regarding President Trump's executive order on state and local involvement in refugee resettlement. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners have placed this issue on their agenda for January 21st.
- Board of Education – Mike said a subcommittee has been formed to provide evaluation and feedback on education programs and materials. He also noted there is a School Trust fund with over \$1,000,000 of principal in it which helps fund school tuition scholarships. St. Mary's School has been approved for full accreditation. There was one action item which needed to be done (improving security at the main entrance) and Troy Sladek will take care of that. Mike said Kim Rauk is exploring a book (*Theology of the Body*, by Ascension Press) which could be used for adult education in the parish.
- Parish Life – Mary Jane said the Parish Life Committee needs some additional members and someone to take over the chairperson position. She reported the committee is looking at holding another movie night.
- Evangelization – Jodi said they invited Kathy Ballou to their meeting to talk about ways that “Welcome Wagon” made new residents feel welcomed. The committee brainstormed ideas that could be used at St. Mary's Church, such as getting names of new parishioners from Janell, matching them with a compatible family/individual; find what their interest areas and gifts/talents are; find out what other parishes and denominations do to welcome people; get training on welcoming and evangelizing. Additional ideas for evangelizing were to use Eucharistic Ministers to greet at the entry doors; use nametags, and hospitality training.

- Finance – Randy said the committee is monitoring the decrease in offerings and attendance and talked about ways to improve in those areas. There is a special meeting next week to discuss budget planning. Randy noted there was discussion about how to handle the trust fund from Father Al Ludwig which has specific criteria for its use. A subcommittee has been formed to look at ideas and consider requests.

Old Business

- Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization – No update.
- Central Lakes Area Catholic Community (CLACC) Update – Rita shared the Strategic Plan created by CLACC that was submitted to the Diocese by December 31st as required. After review and discussion, the pastoral council approved the strategic plan goals and objectives by consensus. A committee at the diocese will review the plan and determine if it meets the established criteria and then it would be forwarded to the bishop.
- Potential State Mandated Sex Education – Pastoral Council members discussed ways to inform parents about the proposed changes in the sex education curriculum at Minnesota’s public schools (CSE-HF1414) being considered as a mandate for all public schools.
- Results of “Celebrating Stewardship” Questions – Jerry reviewed some of the ‘unmet needs’ that were given at the meeting and on the survey. Discussion followed on ideas of what we could do as a parish to address these items. Good communication was a key component.

The meeting adjourned with the Prayer for Spiritual Freedom.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary