

The Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes February 27, 2020

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

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The agenda for February 27, 2020 and the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administrative Report

- Annual Plan – Todd Wentworth said planning is underway to develop next year’s budget and annual plan for the parish.
- Downtown Fire – Todd noted that a donation from the Church of Saint Mary has been given to assist those affected by the recent fire in downtown Alexandria. Personnel from the Alexandria City Hall and Community Foundation are setting up a coordinated fund for people to give monetary donations.
- Furnaces – Todd said that when outside temperatures dropped to 15 degrees below zero on February 13th, all four furnaces for the church, office and education spaces stopped working, due to different reasons. With the work of the parish’s maintenance employees and a local business, the furnaces were working again soon. He noted that the furnaces are getting near the “end of their life.” He is getting quotes on repairing or replacing them.

Committee Reports

- Cemetery – A new post hole digger was donated to the committee.
- JPIC – Tabatha said the JRLC Day on the Hill is scheduled for April 1st. Rita reported that part two of the talks on racism by Father Bob are done and were well attended. He will do a repeat of part one that was held last fall. Discussions are still being held about identifying a location for a library where parishioners could access and check out books. Ken Howell is in contact with people from First Lutheran Church and Calvary Lutheran Church regarding the homeless issue in Alexandria. More information will be available in the future.
- Stewardship – Jerry said the group discussed holding the Legacy Dinner again which Todd noted has received approval for this year. The Evangelization committee (E-Team) has been developing a Welcome packet for new parishioners. They have invited the Stewardship committee to work with them on this process.
- Board of Education – Mike said planning is underway to hold an Easter Egg or Resurrection Egg hunt on the Saturday before Easter. The Board of Education is working on rebranding the Sunday School class. The Gathering (formerly Casino Night) will be held Friday, April 17th. They have begun selling raffle tickets.
- Parish Life – New Member Welcome Sunday will be held March 29th after the 8:00 and 10:00 masses. The committee is holding a movie night this Friday, February 28th.
- Evangelization (E-Team) – Jodi said members of the Stewardship Committee have been invited to join them in developing a formal plan to welcome new parishioners. A

subcommittee has been formed to review information that has been gathered and to look at ideas that the plan could include. Discussion followed on suggested components of a formal plan.

- Finance – Randy said the committee continues to monitor the decrease in offerings and attendance.

Old Business

- Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization – No update.
- Area Catholic Community Update – The ACC planning council has had some difficulties with the first name they chose, which was *Central Lakes Area Catholic Community (CLACC)*. Therefore, they have agreed to change their name. The new name is *Come to the Water Catholic Community (CTTWCC)*. This name has two symbolic representations in the lakes found in the Alexandria/Belle River/Osakis area and also in remembering our baptism. The Diocese set the requirements that there will be six people on the Joint Pastoral Council. Todd Wentworth has prepared a working document of the mission, goals/objectives and strategic plan. Council members reviewed a handout regarding these areas. The August CTTWCC meeting will be a retreat format and one of the things that will be focused on is developing the ACC mission statement. Linda Kaiser has been hired to help assess needs and chart a direction for faith formation for the Area Catholic Community. A March 13th meeting has been scheduled.
- Potential State Mandated Sex Education – No report.
- Ministry for Family with Children at Home – Tabatha said with the support of the pastoral council, she will work on pulling together several efforts that support families with children at home (such as Baptism preparation, Home Schooling, the Momnipotent group, etc.). She said the goal would be to have cohesion with other activities of the church. The pastoral council supported her suggestion. Tabatha will be included in the discussions with Linda Kaiser.

The meeting adjourned with the Prayer for Spiritual Freedom.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary