

The Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2020

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

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The agenda for May 28, 2020 and the minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting were approved by consensus. [Note: The March and April meetings were canceled due to the Covid-19 shutdown.]

Administrative Report

- Todd Wentworth said the decision was made to cancel the Church of St. Mary's Vacation Bible School usually held in June. A few days after that decision, the Governor issued an executive order that allows day camps. Therefore, a decision was made to enter into a contract with the YMCA for them to hold a Summer Day Camp on the parish's campus again this summer, as was done last summer. The camp will be held June 3rd through the end of July. They will use the Great Hall, entering through the west door to the old church; they will also use the Lighthouse. The protocol of the Minnesota Department of Health will be followed with screening at drop-off, washing hands, etc. They anticipate about 40 children will be attending.

Committee Reports

- Cemetery – Janet noted there have been no committee meetings due to the Covid-19 shutdown. She said that Leon Breun has been at the cemetery on a regular basis and is taking care of things there.
- Liturgy – Mary said the Liturgy Committee held a ZOOM meeting, with the main topic of discussion being ways to get ready for reopening the church and scheduling masses.
- JPIC – Rita said all activities for spring, summer and fall have been canceled, due to the Governor's shutdown orders.
- Stewardship – Todd said the Legacy Dinner has been postponed until further notice. The committee is looking at re-doing the stewardship/ministry sign-up process. They have reviewed a skills and interest document that could be made available on the parish's website. Based on responses, the program would direct people to committees based on the "likes" they indicate.
- Board of Education – Mike said the Board of Education has been meeting via ZOOM. With the knowledge of a \$60,000 budget shortfall, the board discussed and made the decision to increase tuition for St. Mary's School students beginning next fall. They are encouraging non-parishioner families to contribute additional funds through Fair Share. Letters were sent to parents of current students and they are getting good responses. Currently, 85 students are enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year; their goal is to have 200-220 students enrolled for the fall. Discussion followed on ways to encourage more St. Mary's parents to enroll their children at St. Mary's School. Mike said *The Gathering* became a virtual event this year and was a big success with approximately additional profit of \$25,000 over last year's event.

Sunday School has been re-branded and will now be called “Little Saints.” Information will be shared at Ministry Moments in August on the new format.

- Parish Life – No meetings have been held.
- Evangelization (E-Team) – No report.
- Finance – Todd reported on the Annual Plan for St. Mary’s Church and School. The parish applied for and received a PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan of \$350,000. He noted that in June the parish will apply for forgiveness of the loan as allowed by law, which would then change the loan to revenue. The Finance Committee continues to monitor the decrease in offerings, especially with the closing of churches due to Covid-19. Discussion followed on ways to get the word out to parishioners of how they can continue to support the parish. Todd noted that the decision was made that there would be no changes to wages for the next fiscal year.
- Human Resources Update – Todd reported that maintenance employee Joe Molloy has retired and Fausto Lopez has been hired to fill that position.

Old Business

- Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization – The St. Cloud Diocese and survivors of clergy sexual abuse have reached agreement on a framework to resolve all abuse claims against the diocese and parishes. In the next couple of weeks, the diocese will file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy as part of this resolution. Some details, including what parishes will be asked to contribute to the compensation fund for survivors, are still being worked out. More information will be forthcoming in the future.
- Area Catholic Community Update – No meetings have been held since the shutdown.
- Potential State Mandated Sex Education – No report.
- Ministry for Families with Children at Home – Tabatha said she has done some brainstorming. She will try to get together with other interested persons soon.
- Linda Kaiser’s work with our area catholic community is ‘on hold.’

New Business

- Reopening of the Church – Father Steve and Todd reviewed plans for a 3-phase reopening of the church. The first phase will include opening the church for private prayer, adoration and for the sacrament of reconciliation. Health and safety instructions will be posted. The second phase will be holding weekday mass Tuesday through Friday, small weddings and funerals, pending the Bishop’s approval. The third phase will be to resume weekend masses with a revised mass time schedule. Volunteers are needed due to the increased health and safety procedures, greeting and ushering people, and sanitizing the church after the mass. Four eucharistic ministers will be assigned to a mass; only the Body of Christ will be offered at this time. Training will be provided to all volunteers. Janell Eddy and Bill Verschaetse are collecting names of those who volunteer to help.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 25th.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary