

The Church of Saint Mary
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020

Present: Father Steve, Todd Wentworth, Rita Winters, Jerry Kostreba, Janet Schiltgen, Jodi Rehovsky, Mary Gorghuber, and Carol Gaffaney.

Absent: Randy Kinney and Francie Peterson.

The meeting was opened with prayer and reflection.

The agenda for September 16, 2020 and the minutes of the August 12, 2020 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administrative Report

- Faith Formation – Based on guidance from the Diocese, faith formation classes are being scheduled beginning September 30th.
 - Sunday School take-home kits are being prepared for parents as classes will not be held in person. There are 34 registered so far.
 - Students in grades 1, 3, 4 and 5 will meet on Wednesdays from 4:45-5:30 p.m. in pods, dependent on the school they attend. There will be an optional class time on Sunday morning from 9:00 to 9:45. Distance learning is also being offered.
 - Students in grade 2 will meet on Mondays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in gym. They are on a different schedule from grades 1, 3, 4, and 5 because of their preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion.
 - Students in grades 6-8 will meet Wednesday night from 6:00-7:00. There will be an optional class offered on Sunday evening from 6:30 to 7:30.
 - Students in grades 9-11 will meet Wednesday night from 7:30 to 8:30. There will be an optional class available on Sunday evening from 6:30 to 7:30.
 - Twelfth grade students will meet on Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Lighthouse Building.
- Praise in the Parking Lot – The Diocese is organizing an outdoor event, *Praise in the Parking Lot*, that will be held in 3 locations in the diocese. One of those events will be held in Alexandria on Sunday September 27th from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the church parking lot.
- CARES Act Funding – Todd reported that there hasn't been any contact from the Economic Development Office regarding the parish's application. This most likely means the parish is not one of the entities that will receive funding.

Committee Reports

- Cemetery – Janet reported on the project day (seeding, planting, landscaping by the new sign, railing installed) that was held last Thursday at the cemetery. A parishioner donated a statue of Mary that will be placed outside the chapel by the crucifix.
- Liturgy – Mary said the committee received a report on upgrading the audio-visual equipment in the church. (See more on this at the end of the meeting notes.)
- JPIC – Rita said the committee received presentations from Helping Hands, Habitat for Humanity, Love Inc., and Family Promise to learn what these groups provide for people in the community. The committee is looking at having more presentations and information

available on racism which could be done virtually as people are not coming to in-person events at this time due to COVID-19. Zoom sessions, book studies and online sessions are other possibilities.

- Stewardship – Jerry reported the committee is looking at ways to communicate with/get to know the other Area Catholic Communities churches parishioners. Being there are so few members in the Evangelization committee, it will be added to the Stewardship Committee.
- Board of Education – Jerry Kostreba agreed to be the liaison to this group.
- Parish Life – No report.
- Finance – No meeting was held in August. Todd reported that the Raffle drawing that was held last Sunday should show a profit of over \$80,000 after expenses.
- Human Resources – Todd is continuing to work on annual staff reviews.

Old Business

- Update on Diocese of St. Cloud Chapter 11 Reorganization – It was the consensus of all pastoral council members present to approve the participation of St. Mary's Church in the victim's settlement fund in the amount of \$15,500.00.
- Come to the Water Area Catholic Community Update – No meetings have been held.
- Reopening of Church Report and Feedback – On Labor Day weekend, over 500 people came for mass so the commons area and the great hall were used. Saturday masses will begin again starting October 3rd.

New Business

- Report on School Status – Current enrollment is about 220 students. They will be scheduling a school mass on Friday afternoons, which will only be for students and teachers.
- Report on Sound and Camera System – The Finance Committee asked the Liturgy Committee for a recommendation on upgrading the audio-visual equipment in the church. The Liturgy Committee reviewed and supported the sound system replacement/upgrade and the video capture system (video/sound connection from the church to Great Hall) as priority projects to be done, and if funds are available, they would support the video projection system. It was the consensus of the pastoral council members to support all three phases of the upgrade/replacement as presented if funds are available.
- Discuss Meeting Day and Time Going Forward – Initial discussion was to hold pastoral council meetings on the fourth Wednesday at 5:00 pm. After email communications with members, the meeting date was changed to the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary