

**The Church of Saint Mary  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

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

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. with prayer.

The agenda for March 9, 2021 and the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting were approved by consensus.

**Administrative Report:**

- Todd Wentworth gave an update on the Audio-Visual upgrade project. All of the main equipment is in place. Wiring will be completed and connected this coming week. The plan is to use the new sound system this weekend. Training of volunteers to operate the equipment is taking place in small groups.
- Todd reported that Bishop Kettler has okayed the congregation singing refrains and acclamations during Mass; therefore, the screens can be used to display the words.

**Committee Reports**

- Cemetery – No report.
- Liturgy – Discussion followed reviewing the Lenten services. There was a large turnout for the 5pm Ash Wednesday Mass. Problems arose with the large number of people who came for the Mass after people without reservations were allowed to enter just before 5:00. Then people with reservations arrived after the service had started and had to be turned away as the capacity had been reached. Also, some new ushers were helping that day who had not been trained and, therefore, they didn't make the best use of available seating.
- JPIC – Rita said the JPIC committee is going to review the basics of the committee: its foundation, purpose, priorities, etc., being it has been some time since that was done and the membership has changed since then.
- Stewardship – Jerry reported on their last meeting; five people from the St. Mary's Church ACC group, two from the Church of the Immaculate Conception and one from St. Nicholas Church met with the committee. They discussed what the Stewardship committee does. They talked about doing a small-yard-size sign that would include the new Area Catholic Communities logo, church names, with a message that "All are Welcome." They felt it could be useful to reach out to people, especially summer guests.
- Board of Education – Jerry reported that as of today, there were 5 students and 2 staff members in contact tracing at St. Mary's School and office, with no active cases and no one in quarantine. Jerry said there will not be a Fish Fry this year, but there will be a Book Fair. The school fundraiser, *The Gathering*, will be held virtually on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Jerry also noted the Board of Education Committee and the Stewardship Committee need more members.

- Parish Life – Jodi reached out to Savannah Altman. They had an informal meeting to get some history of the committee and ideas for moving forward. The purpose of the committee is to build relationships in the Body of Christ by planning parish-sponsored activities.
- Finance – Randy and Todd reported that the parish has amended its Form 241s for 2020 (and 2021), to show that the parish will receive approximately \$200,000 through the Employee Retention Tax Credit. The need has been expressed for a Faith Formation Director for the parish. The Finance Council gave approval to deficit budget and has approved funding a Faith Formation Director position for one year. After that time, that annual cost for the position would need to be included in the annual budget if it is to continue.
- Human Resources – Todd reported that St. Mary's School music teacher Jane Herth, currently on a leave of absence, has resigned.

### **NEW Business**

- Pastoral Council Election – Father Steve asked the three members who would be concluding their term this June whether they were willing to stay an additional year in order to have people with pastoral council experience on the Come to the Water ACC pastoral council. Rita Winters, Jerry Kostreba and Janet Schiltgen said they would stay another year. There will not be a pastoral council election this spring at St. Mary's Church. The ACC pastoral council will consist of 6 members from St. Mary's Church, 3 from the Immaculate Conception Church in Osakis, and 3 from the St. Nicholas Church in Belle River. Therefore, the rotation for St. Mary's would be to have two people elected each spring who would begin in August and serve three years.
- Update on the Come to the Water Area Catholic Community – No meetings are being held at this time. Todd has completed a draft of by-laws and a constitution. He has forwarded them to the ACC planning committee for review. Also, Todd noted they have a Come to the Water ACC logo which is ready to use for various purposes and events.
- St. Mary's Church Pastoral Council Meeting Dates – Due to concerns expressed on the current time and weekday that the meetings are scheduled, discussion was held on better options. It was decided that Thursday is a better day for people's schedules, possibly 4:30 p.m. Father Steve and Rita Winters will look at the calendar and decide on dates and times for April, May and June. Members will be notified by email.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney  
Recording Secretary