

**Come To The Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Held at Saint Mary's Church, Conference Room & Virtually
January 18, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Father Dave Petron, Father Matthew Kuhn, Todd Wentworth, Gary Haavig, Sean Gay, Darcie Boogaard, Bob Kulzer, Mary Gorghuber, Jerry Kostreba, Janet Schiltgen, Jodi Rehovsky, Francie Peterson, and Carol Gaffaney. Absent: Margaret Zidon, Tonya Marthaler, Rita Winters, and Randy Kinney.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Pastors' Perspective

- Father Matthew reported that Luke VanOverbeke, the new Director of Liturgy & Music for Saint Mary's Church, began his work in the parish yesterday, January 17th. He was previously at St. Francis de Sales Church in Moorhead.
- Attendance at Saint Mary's masses is down somewhat, but the church is doing well financially.
- A successful pro-life education event was held Sunday, January 16th at Saint Mary's Church.

Todd Wentworth's News

- Saint Mary's is considering a remodeling project in the school kitchen. Updates are needed to meet health and safety as well as federal food services requirements in the kitchen and lunchroom. Also, with higher enrollment, the facility is short on space to accommodate the number of students. The staff is working with the Widseth Smith Nolting firm on remodeling plans.
- Todd said it is helpful for all ACC pastoral council members to know what is going on in all three parishes. Therefore, in preparation for the monthly ACC pastoral council meetings, Todd asked that members forward the minutes of their parish's committee meetings to St. Mary's parish secretary Janell Eddy (email address: jeddy@stmaryalexandria.org), at least six days prior to the monthly meeting so that she can include them with the meeting notice. If unable to do that, members are asked to bring paper copies to hand out at the meeting.
- Todd will forward to council members the ACC Planning Update email he received from the Diocese of Saint Cloud.
- A series of Regional Ministry Gatherings will be held January 26, February 9, and February 24 on the 2023 World Synod of Bishops and the local synodal process in which Pope Francis has asked every diocese in the world to participate. Information was shared on how to participate in the gatherings either in person or via Zoom.
- Todd reported that Brenda Kresky from the Saint Cloud Diocese office has asked that each ACC host a group synod consultation (listening session). The request is that each ACC have at least one, but an ACC may have more than one session. After discussion, it was decided to hold two sessions: Immaculate Conception Church will hold a session the afternoon of Sunday, March 20th and St. Mary's Church will hold a session the evening of Monday, March 21st. Todd will inform Brenda Kresky of the dates for these listening sessions.
- As a further description of what the Diocese (and Pope Francis) is hoping to get from the listening sessions, it was explained that these questions could be considered:

- What is going on in local parishes? What are the concerns? What are Catholic people thinking about and talking about? What should the conversation focus on at the next Synod with the pope? Past synods have been on the Eucharist, the family and the priesthood.
- The information gathered at the listening sessions will be assembled by the local diocese and then forwarded to the Vatican.
- The Diocese is also asking the ACCs to discern and identify people in their parishes who are great talkers and listeners who would be trained by diocesan staff to reach out to those who do not attend the listening sessions but would have questions and/or topics that could be shared with the bishop in preparation for the 2023 Synod.

Common Bulletin

Discussion on developing a common ACC bulletin was postponed. This will be discussed in the near future to make decisions on what should be in the bulletin and what it should look like.

Mission Statement

Discussion continued on developing a mission statement for the Come To The Water Area Catholic Community. The goal is to have a phrase of about 10 words or less. The following statements were suggested:

- Called by Christ to build God's church in our community
- To build the richness of our faith community across all generations in imitation of Christ
- Called by Christ to build our community around the Eucharist
- Called by Christ to build God's church by living the Eucharist
- Called by Christ to build God's church around the Eucharist
- Called by Christ to build a community of love and service

Pastoral council members were asked to review and consider the suggestions noted above (as well as revise or suggest new statements) for further discussion at the next meeting.

Strategic Plan

Todd asked that members review the Strategic Plan, Goals and Objectives of the CTTW ACC and when doing that, to ask the "why, when, how, etc." questions about them.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, February 15, 6:30 p.m. at Saint Nicholas Church in Belle River.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary