

Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water
Area Pastoral Council
April 16, 2015
MINUTES

Present: Father Steve, Father Jerry, Christa Rivers, Donna Carver, Joan Conway, Pat Malmgren, Tim Macik, Terry Braun, Ron Dobbs, Michelle Ridl, and Mary Nordstrom. **Absent:** Dave Reed.

We began with opening prayer and recommitment to our Vision statement. Minutes from February 19 and tonight's agenda were approved.

Pastor's report:

1. Father Steve and Father Jerry just returned from the Diocesan Priest Retreat.
2. Father thanked everyone from the AFC who helped at the Chrism Mass and the Easter Vigil.
3. Father Steve was in Pittsburgh last week presenting to their presbyterate. Their diocese is facing many of the same issues as we are in the Diocese of New Ulm, especially since 40% of their priests are over the age of 65.
4. Father reported on the two Notices of Claim received by the Church of St. Mary regarding alleged sexual abuse by Fr. David Roney when he was in Willmar in the 1960s. We are currently looking for some documentation on what company the insurance coverage was through at the time of the alleged incidents. Bishop LeVoir was present at St. Mary's last Friday for a healing prayer service for those abused by clergy.
5. We are working on the budgets for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. We are looking at a new phone system for the AFC, which will come out of our Equipment Fund. The budget will be presented to the APC at our May meeting.

Area Reports

There was brief conversation regarding the Area Worship Committee's evaluation of the distribution of oils at the Chrism Mass.

Mary pointed out that there was an error in the recording of expenses and income to the account 5152 - Socials and Dinners. They will be corrected by the April report.

Information Items

1. The Summer Mass schedule will begin on the weekend of June 6/7 and will run through September 5/6 (Labor Day is September 7).

2. The Masses honoring graduates will be May 17 in Willmar and May 31 in Spicer.
3. Fr. Steve's 25th anniversary of his ordination is this summer. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 9:30 am at the Church of St. Mary followed by donuts, juice and coffee.

Discussion Items

1. The Council approved the Area Word recommendation to set the 2015-2016 registration fee at \$30/student with a family max of \$100. No family is ever turned away due to an inability to pay.
2. The Council did not have any concrete items to include in the 2015-2016 budget, although a retreat or mission would be nice if we can plan one. The possibility of a Teaching Mass was discussed as something that would appeal to families.

Parish Consultation Meetings

- Discussion took place regarding the meetings held in Lake Lillian and Kandiyohi during March.
 - People in Lake Lillian seem to feel more positive after the meeting. They better understand that some changes will need to happen.
 - Once Masses alternate between St. Patrick and St. Thomas More, it will be interesting to see if people switch parishes or only attend the weeks when Mass was in their church.
 - Some people are concerned about being confused about when their parish has Mass. It will take diligence on people's part to check the schedules ahead of time.
- Father Steve pointed out that we will all have to make sacrifices: the priests and the people.
- We discussed how to present a more complete financial picture to the parishes so that people are aware of what is happening in the AFC and each parish..
- What can we do to educate people on how the AFC operates?
- What happens next? When will changes occur?
 - The Summer Mass schedule will drop our weekend Mass schedule to 7, with one Sunday Mass in Willmar being eliminated. After Labor Day, when that Mass is brought back, one Saturday evening Mass will be discontinued.
- Father Steve feels that moving forward, we need to focus on these: "Cs"
 - Consultation – opportunities for people to speak and listen.
 - Courage – to make the decisions that need to be made.

- Compassion – as Pope Francis has directed us to "suffer with" others and be willing to make sacrifices.
- Communication - we need to communicate to the people.
- He will bring these “C”s to the staff at Spring Staff Days in May.
- We did not set dates for consultation meetings in Willmar and Spicer.

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 pm at St. Patrick’s in Kandiyohi.