

Church of St. Patrick
Parish Administrative Council
November 18, 2014

Minutes

Members present: Fr. Steve, Jim Strouth, Jackie Ostendorf, Helen Hennes, Joan Conway and Pat Burgmeier. Joyce Wittman and Mary Nordstrom were absent.

We began with opening prayer and recommitment to the APC Vision. Our minutes and tonight's agenda were approved with the addition of St. Patrick's Ham Dinner. Joan Conway thanked the council for the flowers sent to Joe's funeral.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve discussed the revival of the Area Stewardship Committee. This committee would meet approximately four times per year. Its primary duties would be to provide clarity and define what is a parish capital expense and what is a budgeted AFC expense, to help with personnel and salary decisions, and to oversee the AFC budget. The committee will have Father Steve, Mary, and one person from each parish – ideally from the PAC to be able to provide information both to the PAC and to the Stewardship committee. There is one parishioner who the council thinks would fit the bill – an invitation will be extended this weekend.

Area Committee reports: We reviewed the printed minutes from the Area Committees.

Father Steve and members of the Tithing subcommittee received Heartland Community Action Agency's Partners in Hope Award. This is due to the funding we have provided to their Safe Harbors program which provides a motel room for homeless and due to our Door Ministry program which has provided Heartland with over \$20,000 since our agreement in January of 2013.

Parish Committee / Organization Reports:

No reports.

Financial Reports: Father pointed out that we had to move money from savings in order to pay our bills.

Information Items:

- A. There will be an Area Discipleship Retreat on Saturday, January 24, 2015 at the Church of St. Mary. It will begin in the morning and will conclude with the Saturday evening Masses. The purpose of this retreat is to help attendees go and make disciples of our neighbors and the people sitting next to us in the pews each weekend. It is open to everyone in the AFC.

- B. The Advent Fiat will be going out in the mail next week.
- C. This weekend, the Feast of Christ the King, is the one-year anniversary of the commissioning of our Vision statement. There will be a Sprinkling Rite during Mass to remind people of our AFC's vision.

Discussion/Action Items:

- A. **Next meeting date:** Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 1/27/2015 at 7pm.
- B. **Self Studies:** We looked at the Parish and AFC self-studies which show a decline in parishioners, Mass attendance, and youth in our parish and AFC.
- C. **AFC Budget reduction:** Due to Fr. Jim's move to Ortonville, the area faith community will see a savings of approximately \$30,000 in our budget. This will reduce each parish's monthly assessment.
- D. **DMA:** We were short \$202.60 in last year's Diocesan Ministries Appeal. We paid this out of general funds.
- E. **Msgr. Garvey bequest:** Msgr. Garvey left a portion of his estate to the St. Patrick's cemetery.
- F. **St. Patrick's Ham Dinner & Raffle:** The Ham Dinner was discussed. It is on the calendar for March 15, 2015. There will be a need to recruit some new volunteers this year.
- G. **Area Mass Schedule:** At their meeting this coming Thursday, the Area Pastoral Council (APC) will be reviewing options for a temporary Mass schedule to run January through May. In February/March, we will be having parishioner consultation meetings to gather input as we look at long-term solutions.
 - a. **Temporary Option 1:** Continue with eight Masses each weekend, but change the times of the Sunday Masses in Willmar to 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 (Spanish). While this does not accomplish the goal of cutting down Masses, it does help parishioners know that their opinions matter at the consultation meetings in the Spring.
 - b. **Temporary Option 2:** Eliminate the 4:00 pm Saturday evening Mass in Kandiyohi and alternate the 8:15 am Sunday morning Mass between Lake Lillian and Kandiyohi.

There was considerable discussion regarding this. What would eliminating the Saturday evening Mass do to the parish? How do we resuscitate our parish both financially and in terms of inviting people to have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

Mary Nordstrom