

**Catholic Area Faith Community of
Jesus Our Living Water
Area Pastoral Council
February 28, 2013 – Minutes**

Members Present: Father Steve, Father Jerry, Father John, Christa Rivers, Deb Reitsma, Donna Carver, Joan Conway, Michelle Ridl, Ron Dobbs, Terry Braun and Mary Nordstrom

Members Absent: Father Brian, Dave Reed and Tim Macik

I. Opening Prayer / Recommitment to our Vision

- Christa led us in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and in our recommitment to our AFC Vision.

II. Review & Approval of Minutes and Agenda

- Minutes from 1/17/2013 were approved.
- Tonight's agenda was approved after moving the order of some items.

III. Review of Area Committee reports

- Fr. Brian's name was misspelled in number 9 of the minutes of the Area Service Committee.
- The Bereavement Workshop was very well attended. There was high praise for the speaker.
- Area Health & Wellness Subcommittee has been very busy. They are planning AED training in Willmar on March 9/10 and are also planning an Advanced Directives session in April.
- Area Worship has been busy planning for Confirmation, the Mission, and the Easter Vigil.
- Financial Reports: We will begin budgeting for 2013-2014 soon.

IV. Information Items

1. Father Steve gave an update on Small Christian Communities.
2. Another note was that the Dorothy Day play was excellent!
3. Ron asked some questions about the pictorial directory (in progress) and a KC request for OLOL for an auction item (Father Steve is reviewing it).

V. Discussion Items

1. Area Mission(s): March 3-7, English; March 10-14, Spanish
 - Father Arthur will be preaching at all the Masses this weekend – some at the beginning of Mass and some during the regular homily time.
 - He will also preside at one daily Mass in each parish and present a mini-mission on what is going to be discussed that night. There are no Masses in the evenings.
 - All of the liturgical ministers are in place. The evening sessions will be video-taped, and then Cat-eye will compile them into one chaptered DVD.
 - We discussed the cost of the mission to the AFC. The only cost to the AFC is for mileage, travel expenses, and food. We also have nominal costs for food and hospitality after each evening's session. There are no speaker fees. There is a collection on the last night that will go to Father Arthur's order. It was suggested that we put out envelopes the other nights for people who are unable to attend Thursday night.
2. Area Mass at the Civic Center: May 19, 2013
 - Father Steve led us through an exercise of each member confidentially providing input on his or her enthusiasm and energy for the Civic Center Mass. Is this year the right year for having the Civic Center Mass? Father will also do this exercise next week with the staffs.
 - Four people voted "1," three voted "2," and one person voted "4".
 - There were also comments that there is a need to generate excitement in the individual parishes. It is difficult to get people to volunteer as well as to get people to follow through on their commitments.
 - Many people in the pews are still questioning why we need to do things as an area.
 - How do we take baby steps to ensure people that "their" parish is not being neglected or pushed to the back burner?
 - Will small Christian communities be a way to build relationships between people in different parishes?
 - An opportunity we face is how we recognize the generational differences where younger people want to do a project or an event and not commit to a lifetime in a specific ministry.
 - How do we help people realize that the Area Faith Community is giving us more options and not taking away opportunities.

3. AFC Goals and Objectives

- Father Steve shared information he received at Catholic Leadership Institute
 - 7% of Catholics are highly engaged.
 - 10% are practicing Catholics who attend Mass every Sunday, but primarily out of habit or obligation.
 - 12% are AGS Catholics – or “any given Sunday.” They will attend Mass if nothing else is on their schedule.
 - 71% are “none.” They are baptized Catholics who aren’t going to any church.
 - How do we get people to become more engaged?
 - The difference between “highly engaged” and the “practicing Catholics” is a personal encounter with Christ.
 - Who are the 7% in our parishes? What was their personal encounter?
 - We should try to name these people as they are the ones who are probably the ones who will join our small Christian communities.
 - In the gospels, Jesus never said, “Worship me,” but he often said, “Come.” However, getting people to “come” to Mass is not the ultimate goal. At the end of the gospels Jesus said, “Go and make disciples.” Getting people into church is not the goal – making disciples is.
 - Suggestion that between now and our next meeting we think of our own personal encounters and also identify and talk to other highly engaged people and ask their stories.

4. AFC Vision statement – Father Steve stated that in order to rewrite our Vision statement, we need to identify three values. What are the top three values in each of our parishes? We identified:

St. Mary

Diversity

Outreach – tithing, taking care of all people

Abundance of talent and sharing

St. Patrick

Friendly and loving people

Generosity

Caring and Concern

Our Lady of the Lakes

Hospitality / welcoming

Faith Formation at all levels

Ownership

Good liturgies

Youth – we take care of them

Contemporary

Progressive

- For our next meeting, we were challenged to identify the top values at the other parishes in the AFC; i.e. if you are a member of Our Lady of the Lakes, what do you feel are the values of St. Mary, St. Patrick, and St. Thomas More?

Assignments for all Area Pastoral Council members before our April meeting:

1. Think of our own personal encounters with Christ.
2. Identify people we know who are in the highly engaged 7% and ask them their stories.
3. List the top values of the three parishes in the AFC of which you are not a member.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 18 at the Church of St. Patrick in Kandiyohi.