



Sharing the life of Christ
Being the love of Christ

Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water

Area Pastoral Council

February 25, 2014

MINUTES

Present: Father Steve, Father Jerry, Father Jim, Terry Braun, Christa Rivers, Pat Malmgren, Donna Carver, Joan Conway, Ron Dobbs, Tim Macik, Michelle Ridl and Mary Nordstrom. Guests present were: Sherm Schueller and Roger Bengtson from Family Promise of Kandiyohi County and parishioners: Pat Berg, Barb Garding, Helaine Bolter, Carmen Rohne and Luann Sieben.

We began with a presentation from Family Promise of Kandiyohi County. They gave an overview of how Family Promise would work in our area. As of right now, there are eight committed host congregations and several committed support congregations. There are other groups in Minnesota - Minneapolis (2 groups), Rochester (has been operational for 12 years), Anoka, and Elk River. They are hoping to begin in July. There would also be a board of directors made up of 11-13 people from the host and support congregations.

The cost to the host congregation is about \$200 per week, and that is for the food. They also need linens for the cots that each congregation would keep and launder. A maximum of five families or 14 individuals would be hosted. All people are screened for past criminal and chemical abuse history.

The minutes from November 21 with the correction that Dave Reed should be listed only in the "Present" section. Our agenda for tonight's meeting was approved as printed.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve pointed out that we have been supporting Heartland's Safe Harbor program through St. Mary's tithing program. The Ash Wednesday collection in all of our worship sites will be donated to Safe Harbor.

Area Committee Reports: The Area Service Committee has recommended that we support the Family Promise program as a host congregation. Family Promise will also be making presentations at each parish's Stations of the Cross and Soup Suppers. The Area Word Committee is tabulating the results from the survey that was done in January. The Area Worship Committee is working on the Area Easter Vigil.

Information Items

- 1. Lenten Newsletter:** will go out in the mail tomorrow
- 2. Ash Wednesday:** schedule is in the newsletter
- 3. Easter Vigil:** will be at Our Lady of the Lakes; a subcommittee is being put together to plan the liturgy

Discussion Items

- 1. Family Promise:** We discussed our options on how to support Family Promise. Are we sure that we can get enough volunteers? Would most of the volunteers end up being retired people? How would they deal with potentially nine small children who may all be sick, crying, emotional, etc. all at the same time? How do facilities handle the set-up and needs? What happens if there is a funeral? One suggestion was that we stay as a support congregation at this time. There are still a lot of open questions. We need more input from the Area Service Committee on whether or not it is felt that we can get enough volunteers. The recommendation of the Council was to remain a support congregation at this time.
- 2. Penitential Services:** We have five opportunities to celebrate God's mercy through penitential services scheduled this Lent. There are several additional times for people to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.
- 3. Bulletin:** We discussed possible changes to the bulletin. The last couple weeks, we have gone down to our summer bulletin format (four pages). This is because we had not been receiving enough information to fill all eight pages. However, because 1.75 pages of the bulletin is reserved for advertising, we are limited on what information we can include. Our advertisers are up for renewal in May, so now is the time if we are going to make changes.
Option 1: We keep the advertising as-is and limit the information
Option 2: We reserve the advertising to single-sized ads and limit them to the back page only which would give us three full pages each week
Option 3: We remove all advertising and lose all the revenue which would give us four full pages.
The recommendation was that we go to four pages and limit the advertisers to just the back page (Option 2).
- 4. AFC Budget for 2014-2015:** Father Steve explained the major budget change for 2014-2015 being the movement of the faith formation budget from being paid out of the parishes to the AFC budget. We can do this because our directors and the Area Word Committee are working on a uniform curriculum for the AFC. After July 1, the directors will be working with grade levels for everyone in the AFC. Job descriptions are being written for these positions and then each of the directors will then indicate which, if any, of the positions they are interested in. A small interview task force is being created to help with this.
- 5. Rebuilt Book:** tabled
- 6. Goals and objectives for AFC:** tabled

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 20 at the Church of St. Thomas More at 6:30 pm.