



*Sharing the life of Christ
Being the love of Christ*

Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water

Area Pastoral Council

March 20, 2014

MINUTES

Present: Father Steve, Father Jerry, Christa Rivers, Pat Malmgren, Donna Carver, Joan Conway, Ron Dobbs, Tim Macik, Michelle Ridl and Mary Nordstrom. Terry Braun and Father Jim were absent.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve reported on the movement of Faith Formation staff and budgets from the parishes to the AFC. The Diocesan HR consultant has approved the job descriptions and the current directors have them; they will determine which position(s), if any, they choose to apply for.

Area Committee Reports: Mary will send out the results of the Area Word Committee's survey.

Information Items

1. AFC Self Study: Father Steve discussed the AFC self study that has been sent in to the diocese. We talked about how we are moving past some of our original issues of money and Mass times. We need to identify how to build relationships across the worship sites.

Discussion Items

1. Bishop LeVoir's articles in the Prairie Catholic:

Father Steve commented that a parishioner told him that they don't think that many people have a clue that we really have a priest shortage. How do we make our parishioners aware? He has posed/will pose the question, "Why does our parish matter?" to our Parish Administrative Councils. Some of the APC members' comments:

- If my parish closed, it would be like losing a home; it's where all my memories are.
- Another person commented that while it would be difficult and painful, they would look for a worship site where they could build relationships.
- A good thing is that with the Catholic faith, wherever you go, you get the same Mass.
- It was noticed that people are more welcome to worship at other parishes.

Father shared that whenever one of our senior associates retires, we most likely won't get a replacement priests. Our AFC will be served by 2 (or 1.5) priests.

How do we call upon people to take a more active role, and how will we hand on our faith and grow in our own faith when we only have two priests?

How do we prepare people for the reality of what our AFC will look like with one fewer priests? What type of leadership do we need?

One comment was that we need to be very clear with the people and let them know that the issue isn't going away.

How do we celebrate the long-time parish connection that people have to their parishes?

If the people in the pews aren't aware now, they will have a grim reality when they are faced with the loss of some of the Masses we now have. Some parishes may end up with Mass only every-other-weekend.

We need to make sure that the volunteers know how vital their roles are.

One of our largest challenges for the coming year is to build relationships. How do we spend the time to get to know one another? Having connections with other people will make it easier when people worship at another site.

We have to be very intentional about hospitality when a parish hosts an area event.

Sharing ministries is also another visual example of how people can be involved in more than one worship site. Father Steve commented that we won't schedule ministers for another parish, but we can use them if we are short at a Mass.

It was suggested that we spend an extended time to brainstorm.

2. *Rebuilt Book:* Father suggested that need to spend some time identifying three to four values that help support our vision. After we identify them, we then have to define them, and then finally determine how to operationalize them.

“Vision without action is just a daydream; action without vision is a nightmare.”

It is important that we let people know that the ideas are coming from the group and not just the pastor's edict.

What parts of the book *Rebuilt* can we take? Before we can answer that, we need to define our values.

Some examples of values would be from Timonium, where they have "conversation leads to conversion," and how our parishes have a commitment to the poor.

The consensus is that the group is they are willing to do a mini retreat, but it may need to wait until summer.

3. 2014-2015 AFC Budget: covered in the Pastor's report.

5. Goals and objectives for AFC:

4. Next meeting date: May 8, 6:30 pm at the Church of St. Patrick.