



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

Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water

Area Pastoral Council

May 29, 2014

MINUTES

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

We began with our opening prayer to the Holy Spirit and recommitment to the AFC Vision. The minutes from March 20 and tonight's agenda were approved.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve gave an update on filling the Area Director Faith Formation positions. Barb Garding will direct preschool-grade 2; Erin Wendt will direct grades 3-6; Diane Pyka will direct grades 7-9, and Christine Pinto will direct grades 10-12 and youth ministry. There are two possible candidates for the Director of Hispanic Ministry and RCIA. Father hopes to conduct these interviews during the month of June. Ron Skjong will be leaving the AFC at the end of June. We are grateful for his years of service as a director of faith formation and RCIA.

Area Committee reports: there were no comments on the reports.

Information items: none.

Discussion/Action items: Area Word recommendation for a common curriculum. The material was omitted from the packet. It was recommended that we conditionally approve the Area Word Committee's recommendation with the understanding it will be sent via email.

Area Staff Days: Father Steve recapped what took place yesterday and today at Spring Staff Days. The staff used the book, *Rebuilt* and the percentages of Engaged / Habitual / Unchurched and Christmas, Easter, and one-other-time Catholics to identify three pastoral priorities for the upcoming year.

One suggestion was that we have an annual retreat for the people in our parishes who are engaged and are in leadership roles.

Another one was that we focus on ministries - making personal invitations, defining expectations, offering trial periods, and affirming and evaluating people in ministries.

A third one was to thoroughly ramp up hospitality through things like social media, parking lot ministry, better written communication in Christmas/Easter letters and in the Fiat.

An invitation was offered to council members to sit on the small groups of staff putting more flesh to the pastoral priorities. Christa and Pat offered to help on the group organizing the retreat.

APC retreat: We had talked in the past about having an APC retreat. This will most likely be combined into the retreat suggested by the Area Staff.

Bishop LeVoir's article: We had some comments and discussions about Bishop LeVoir's article in the April issue of *The Prairie Catholic* explaining the shortage of priests.

2014-2015 Budget: We reviewed the possibility of having one AFC budget for all expenses beginning July 1, not including capital improvement projects. Father Steve had presented this concept to the trustees/representatives of each parish earlier in May, who expressed support for the idea. We found that there is very little overall difference to the parishes' budgets. The three main benefits of one budget for expenses are 1) elimination of many inter-AFC transactions where one parish pays another or the AFC, or the AFC reimburses a parish (over 100 checks cut in the first 10 months of the fiscal year), 2) this would move all employees to be AFC employees and allows for more streamlining of duties and elimination of duplication, and 3) allows us to focus on building a sense of community and ownership across all worship sites. The council recommended going forward with one budget for expenses for the next fiscal year. This idea has been approved by the two administrative councils who have met, and will go to the remaining two in the next two weeks.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 9 at the Church of St. Mary** for the gathering of all councils and committees.