

**Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water
Parish Administrative Council
February 19, 2015
MINUTES**

Present: Father Steve, Father Jerry, Michelle Ridl, Donna Carver, Pat Malmgren, Christa Rivers, Tim Macik, and Mary Nordstrom. **Absent:** Dave Reed, Joan Conway, Ron Dobbs, and Terry Braun.

We began with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and recommitment to our Vision statement. Our December minutes and tonight's agenda were approved as printed.

Pastor's Report

- Father reported on last Sunday's celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a beautiful liturgy and Father has been very impressed with this group of students. One downside is the whole photo-taking process. After a beautiful liturgy, and trying to extend hospitality, we turn into negative-Nellies and are forced to move people out of the way so the photographer can take photos and also so that the next Mass can begin. One parent sent an email discussing feeling rushed at the Mass and also felt that they couldn't invite family members due to seating limitations. We discussed some options that we may have in the future.

Area Committee Reports: We reviewed the February minutes of the AFC committees.

Information Items

1. The Diocesan Chrism Mass will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 7 pm at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar. The Area Worship Committee is arranging volunteers, and members of this council may be contacted to help. If you are going to be around, let Mary know as we arrange volunteers.
2. Area Easter Vigil will be held on Saturday, April 4, at 8 pm at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar. There are 2 catechumens (unbaptized adults) and 8 or 9 candidates to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Discussion Items

1. **Evaluate Discipleship Retreat:** We discussed the retreat which was very well attended and was a wonderful day.

Now what?

- Do we want to use anything from the retreat as a springboard as we begin planning for next year? Another retreat? An AFC mission?
- Not everyone is cut out to be a "disciple," but how do I better my relationship with God and reach out to others?

- Continue focus on hospitality and extending invitations to people.
- Is there anything we can learn from the day to guide us at our parish consultation meetings?
 - There was a lot of respect for each other at the tables and an ability to speak freely.

2. Plan for number of Masses: As we look at the future going ahead, do we want to go ahead and bite the bullet and cut down two Masses, going from eight to six, or do the step-down approach, going down to seven and working toward a cut to six? There were differing thoughts, with the main focus of the group wanting to make sure we keep the priests healthy.

The lay members of the council strongly feel that we need Father Steve to preach from the pulpit on the dire straits that the diocese is in with regards to the health and well-being of our priests.

The council felt that using the step-down approach is probably best to begin with. We will continue to monitor the impact of reducing a Mass.

3. AFC/Parish consultation meetings: We discussed the draft of the material that was sent out. The only change is to cite the 4th Plan for Parishes as the source of the definitions on the last page of the material.

Agenda for the meeting

- A.** Opening prayer led by member of the APC – will invite member from the host parish (Tim for StTM and Joan/Donna for StP). If they decline, another member of the APC can lead it. It was suggested to use either the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the Bishop Ken Untener reflection.
- B.** Introduction by Fr. Steve giving the framework of the meeting - the meeting is NOT about a Mass schedule. (20 minutes for prayer and introduction)
- C.** Move into small groups - APC members would be the facilitator/listener/recorder. (40 minutes)
- D.** Regroup.

Mary will send an email asking APC members which of the meetings members are able to attend.