

**Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water  
Area Pastoral Council**

**MINUTES  
October 15, 2015**

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

**Absent:** Ron Dobbs and Tim Macik.

We began with our opening prayer and enrichment, which was to view Chapter Four of *The Francis Effect* video.

Our minutes from September and tonight's agenda were approved.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Father Steve indicated that we are still waiting to hear any update from the Diocese and its attorneys regarding the notices of claim that were served upon the Church of St. Mary.
- He also updated the Council on the change in the Diocesan Ministries Appeal this year. In the past, a parish received any money contributed to the DMA over the parish's goal. In the future, the parish will receive \$.20 of every dollar contributed by its parishioners. The change has been made on the advice of diocesan attorneys. This will be discussed at each parish's Administrative Council meeting.

**Area Committee Reports**

- We discussed the area committee reports. This is the week that we are partnering with Bethel to house the homeless for Family Promise of Kandiyohi County. People interested in volunteering should contact Dick Kuhn (St. Mary's), Mary Pieh (Our Lady of the Lakes) or Joe Groshens (St. Patrick's).

**Information Items**

- Dates of upcoming events in the AFC were shared.
- We reviewed the September financial reports.

**Discussion Items**

- Mass schedule in the event of one priest
  - The Bird Island / Olivia / Hector / Renville area faith community has a plan in place that they use when a priest is gone or when the Mission Co-op priests are there.

- We need to have this as a plan for an extended illness or vacation. (If a priest is “suddenly” sick, we would use “Sunday celebration in the absence of a priest.”)
- The suggestion would be that we discuss this at the Willmar and Spicer consultation meetings.
- One possible Mass configuration could be one Saturday Mass in Willmar, and then one Sunday Mass each in Willmar and Spicer.
- It was also noted that we should also have a complete list of volunteers in each parish who could lead Communion Services in the absence of a priest. Father Jerry has trained a few people, but more will need to be trained.
- Area festival
  - We have just finished the Lake Lillian, Willmar and Spicer fall festivals. Each year we hear how difficult it is to get volunteers. Would people be interested in supporting an Area festival? What would it look like? Where would we hold it?
  - We need to continually be asking what the purpose is of each festival.
  - Is one value of each parish festival offering an opportunity for the local community (non-Catholics) to join in the celebration?
  - Could people from other parishes be invited to work at other parishes’ festivals?
  - What about adding an Area gathering without replacing the parish festivals?
  - This will be discussed at each PAC meeting and Father Steve also hopes at the meetings of the organizations such as CCW, KCs, D of I, Parish Society, Catholic United Financial.
- Consultation meetings in Willmar and Spicer:
  - We looked at dates for the consultation meetings in Willmar and Spicer. We have tentatively set the dates for Tuesday, January 19 and Thursday, January 21.
- AFC self-study
  - Father Steve is working on this report for the diocese.
- Prayers of the Faithful Group
  - We are looking for two additional people to help prepare the Prayers of the Faithful.

Our next meeting is Thursday, November 19 at **6:00 pm** at the Church of St. Patrick in Kandiyohi.