

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

**MINUTES
2016-09-22**

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

The notes from the May meeting were approved, and there were no additions to the agenda. We welcomed Gene Platt to the APC, and Father Steve commented that he is still trying to identify a couple more individuals to also be part of the council.

Pastor's Report

Father Steve gave an update some staff duties. This year Barb Garding and Diane Pyka are in charge of the Adult Faith Formation activities, primarily supporting the groups that are currently meeting and a few other opportunities. As we move forward, we will need to evaluate the need for more staffing in the area of adult catechesis and fewer in the Preschool-Grade 12. Also this year, Erin Wendt will be in charge of supporting the 1st Grade catechists/students, and Christine Pinto will be in charge of 9th grade.

We have been able to help out families in the area who were impacted by the August flooding. We had ten applications for assistance and have been able to help them all out. We are able to due to having received a grant from Catholic Charities, and expect to receive a second check next week. We also kicked in money from our tithing funds to be able to help people purchase washers and dryers at cost from Cullens.

Financial Reports

We reviewed the financial reports for the end of the fiscal year as well as the end of August. Father Steve pointed out that we had a large surplus at the end of the fiscal year that we are keeping in the checking account as we need to be prepared for the impact having two fewer parishes paying into the AFC assessment this year.

Information Items

1. Upcoming dates for this fall were listed

Discussion Items

1. Evaluate closing Masses at St. Patrick and St. Thomas More

We discussed the preparation that had obviously been done in advance so that parishioners were aware of the closings. It goes back to Father Steve's vision from the beginning that we are "One parish, four worship sites. One parish, three worship sites." We can only do this by building relationships. Throughout his tenure, people have begun to build those relationships so that it has helped as we move to "one parish, two worship sites." People from St. Patrick's or St. Thomas More may not necessarily know the names of their new co-parishioners, but at least they have been exposed to them and may recognize them.

Father Steve said that it would have been nice if we could have gotten another priest to cover the other Masses so that he and/or Father Jerry could have stayed to mingle with the people who were there.

The transfer of the crucifix and other items was very well done and a symbol of hope for the people. Even the Bishop was impressed with the symbolism those rituals showed

Many people stayed to have dinner at St. Patrick / breakfast at St. Thomas More.

2. Progress on sale of Kandiyohi and Lake Lillian properties

We have both properties listed with Doug Fenster, a St. Mary's parishioner who specializes in commercial real estate. Currently, there is a sale pending on the sale of St. Thomas More. We are hoping to close on November 1. The proceeds from the sale of the property will stay in the bank until all lawsuits are resolved. There is some interest in the Church of St. Patrick in Kandiyohi. We have received two offers that are not quite up to the amount that the Administrative Council is hoping to receive. This past week, the price for the property was dropped to \$245,000. The price will be reevaluated in 30 days if necessary. When the Church of St. Patrick is sold, the proceeds will go to their cemetery. Once all lawsuits are resolved and the properties are sold, St. Patrick's cemetery will be overseen by St. Mary's Administrative Council.

3. Update on pastoral initiatives

Members of the staff provided written updates on each of the initiatives.

Transition Team: The council thought that Name Tag Sundays would be good to try. Letters will be sent to former ministry members of St. Patrick/St. Thomas More inviting them to reflect on their past ministry/ies and consider coming forward when the Showcase on Mass Ministries takes place in October. We will also contact a few people from St. Thomas More who were in charge of Turkey Bingo and have them lead a group of volunteers to pull off a social evening on Sunday, November 13.

Recruitment and Retention of Ministers: The next Ministry Showcase will be October 22/23 and 29/30. It will focus on Mass ministries. We are taking photos at both churches so that we can have current photos of how people serve in these roles. Michelle, who is on this team commented on how great it has been working alongside staff.

Leadership Development: The team is using the book *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*. The team will meet again to look for ways to integrate the formation of intentional disciples into existing areas of ministry.

4. Weekend Mass schedule when only one priest is available
Father Steve and Father Jerry shared a proposal that would be used when one of them will be on vacation and there is a planned absence. (In case of unplanned absences, we would use Word and Communion Services if we are unable to find a fill-in priest.)
The council heartily approved the schedule and hope that the priests use it and take their allotted vacations so that they can be healthy and rejuvenated.
A question was asked about the role of deacons and how they could assist in these situations. Because a deacon cannot consecrate the Eucharist, their role would be to assist in the Word and Communion services.
5. Ten-year anniversary of formation of AFC
This year marks the ten-year anniversary of our formation. Do we want to do anything special to recognize this? Do we want to highlight it at other events that we have throughout the year?
Due to just closing the two smaller parishes, it is not appropriate to “celebrate” this occasion, and we don’t want to have a big hoopla, but do want to recognize what we have accomplished in ten years. We will look for ways to highlight those accomplishments.