

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

**MINUTES
2016-11-17**

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

The minutes from the September meeting were approved, and there were no additions to the agenda.

Pastor's Report

Father Steve reported that the annual Anointing of the Sick Mass and Thanksgiving Dinner was today and there were over 240 people in attendance. This number keeps growing from all parts of our area faith community, including our Spanish-speaking members. We will consider projecting the readings in Spanish in the future in order to help their comprehension of the liturgy. Father Jim Barry came back from the Cities to concelebrate at this liturgy. Many people remembered him from when he was here, and we thank him for his presence.

There has been a delay in the closing on the property in Lake Lillian due to no record of the city abandoning the street that is between the church and the old school. For as long as anyone can remember it has been considered church property, and we maintain it, but the county's records don't reflect that. We will need to do a "quiet claim title" which will take time and additional money. Our realtor is proposing that we put money in escrow to cover these costs and proceed with the closing. We are waiting to hear back on that.

There is one outstanding offer on the property in Kandiyohi, but their PAC wants to make sure that they are doing their due diligence in trying to get the best return for the property. They will be meeting Tuesday, 11/29 to give an answer to the current offer: Yes, No, or a counter-offer.

Information Items

1. Catholic Charities / Tithing Fund – Our area faith community received a grant of \$10,000 and our AFC tithing fund allocated an additional \$5,000 to help victims of the flooding in Kandiyohi County in August. A lot of our assistance went to help families who lost appliances due to sewage backup. Catholic Charities is funded in part through the Diocesan Ministries Appeal and our tithing fund is created through the generosity of our parishioners.

2. Giving Tree / Holiday Baskets – This year we are making a change in how the holiday food “baskets” are distributed. We are not requiring people to sign up in advance and make an appointment to come in and get a bag of food. We want to enable more people to receive a helping hand and will have the food pre-bagged in areas of the churches after Masses on the weekend before Christmas (December 17/18). We will invite people to take a bag of food if they need a bag, or if they know someone who needs a bag. This will hopefully cover some of our people who might be too embarrassed to ask for a bag in their own name.
3. Communal Penance Service – Sunday, December 18, 3:00 pm at the Church of St. Mary
4. Christmas Mass schedule
 - Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24 3:30 pm Church of St. Mary, Willmar
4:00 pm Church of Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer
5:30 pm Church of St. Mary, Willmar
7:00 pm Church of St. Mary, Willmar (Spanish)
 - Christmas Day Sunday, December 25 9:00 am Church of St. Mary, Willmar
10:00 am Church of Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer
5. Area Pastoral Council / Staff Retreat –
 - Saturday, February 18, 8:30 am (coffee/rolls), 2:00 pm conclusion
 - This will be a retreat. Attendees will be randomly put into groups when they arrive and will spend a large portion of the day with that group. The reflection questions will be sent out ahead of time so that people can be prepared and not panicked.
6. DMA Goals
 - Willmar\$54,960.09
 - Spicer..\$27,670.09
7. Financial Reports – we reviewed the October financial reports. We are pretty much right on target year-to-date.

Discussion Items

1. Update on pastoral initiatives
 - a. Leadership development team – This team is currently planning the retreat for January.
 - b. Ministry recruitment/retention team – We discussed the recent Showcase for Mass ministries. While we didn’t get a lot of people signing up to be ministers, there is more awareness, and people did take home the information. Training is going on now for these new people. The next area to be addressed are the “Service” ministries. A plan for this hasn’t been set yet.

- c. Transition team – This team organized and executed Turkey Bingo last Sunday. This was done as a way to honor a tradition from one of the closed parishes. The team will meet again to look at ways to honor the tradition of the Church of St. Patrick.
2. Future of each initiative after this fiscal year – Each team needs to be thinking about whether or not their initiative needs to continue after June 30, and if so, does it need to have a different focus? For example, the Transition team may not need to focus on the closed parishes, but on the whole AFC.
3. Parish self-studies – We reviewed a 10-year history of the parish self-studies that show we are continuing to grow older as a community, and have fewer children in our religious education programs.
4. Turkey Bingo – Over 300 people attended Turkey Bingo on Sunday night. There was huge diversity of age and culture as we had children too young to walk all the way up to elderly members. We had a very large number of both Anglo and Latino families. It appeared that people felt it was a fun family night. We started at 6 pm and we were done before 8 pm, so families were able to get their children to bed before too late. St. Thomas More had used this event to fund their portion of Catholic School education at St. Mary’s School in Bird Island. The AFC budgets for that payment to St. Mary’s School, and wanted to offer the event free – no charge for Bingo cards; no charge for pop/popcorn; no charge for lunch... It was very apparent that people appreciated it and came out in droves. We are grateful for the people from St. Thomas More who helped plan and execute the event – even those who are now members of parishes outside our AFC. We are also grateful to people who donated door prizes, side dishes, and money to offset the costs for the evening.
 - a. We need to look at this and take note that people will come if you offer family-friendly activities at no cost to them. We need to think of 3 or 4 ways we could offer activities each year as a way to help build relationships in our AFC.

Our next meeting is the APC/Staff retreat on Saturday, February 18.