

Area Pastoral Council
May 11, 2017
Minutes

Present: Father Steve, Father Jerry, Christa Rivers, Terry Braun, Gene Platt, Michelle Ridl, Pat Malmgren, and Mary Nordstrom.

Absent: Dave Reed, Joan Conway, Donna Carver

We began with opening prayer, approval of November minutes and tonight's agenda.

Pastor's report:

- We have closed on the sale of both church properties in Kandiyohi and Lake Lillian. The former church in Kandiyohi is now a community center, and an evangelical church will be going into the building in Lake Lillian.
 - The money from St. Patrick is going to their cemetery.
 - The money from St. Thomas More will be held in a bank account until clergy sexual abuse lawsuits are settled. After that, the money will be divided to the parishes where the former members went on July 1. For example, if 10% went to St. Mary's in Bird Island, we will send 10% of the remaining money there.
- There is nothing new on the legal issues facing the Diocese of New Ulm, the Church of St. Mary, and the Church of St. Thomas More.
- As has been noted on our bulletin boards, in the bulletin, and in the Prairie Catholic, the Diocese of New Ulm has filed for bankruptcy. This has resulted in a loss of projected investment revenue, which required a reduction in diocesan staff.
- With Diane Pyka's retirement on June 30, we created a new position for Director of Adult Faith Formation and advertised it in dioceses and Catholic universities in the region. We had one applicant who eventually withdrew his application. As we looked at the impact of that position and other cost increases in the proposed 2017-2018 budget, it was decided to pull the new position.
 - There will be a reception for Diane on June 24/25 after Masses at Our Lady of the Lakes.
 - We are hoping that parishioners who are passionate about an adult faith formation subject will step forward to lead some efforts. Parishioners should contact Mary or Father Steve if they would like to lead something.

Information Items

- Father Jerry will be having back surgery on June 7, and will be out of commission for at least three weekends. Substitute priests have been arranged for those three weekends, so we will not need to use our "One Priest Weekend" schedule. Father Steve will be saying a Mass on Wednesdays in Spicer.
- April financial reports were reviewed. We are in a good position year-to-date.

- Father Steve gave an update on our Staff Planning Day that took place Tuesday, May 9. Most of the day was spent helping staff learn how - and when - to share our own personal faith story. This was framed in terms of the three types of rock:
- Igneous: An intense experience. The conversion of Paul would be an example of this.
- Sedimentary: Layers formed over time. Most Catholics would fall into this category where their faith continues to build and grow.
- Metamorphic: Exposure to extreme conditions. Mary's Fiat would be an example of this.

Discussion Items

- Summer Mass Schedule: Same as previous years with Willmar eliminating one English Mass and having an English Mass at 9:30 and Spanish at 11:00. Long-term, the goal might be to consider having more Masses that are bi-lingual (or with elements of two languages).
- Pastoral Initiative Teams
 - The Leadership Development Team offered a proposal to offer four mini-retreats similar to the one held in February. Their proposal was approved.
 - The Transition Team will continue to meet, but its focus for the next year will be creating a Welcoming Packet.
 - The Recruitment/Retention Team will also continue to meet in the upcoming year.
- APC meeting schedule 2017-2018
 - Father opened the door to discuss the possibility of moving our meetings to a different night, having more meetings. One of Father Steve's goals is to prepare a long-range plan that will hopefully help the new pastor (whenever that occurs).
 - Discussion was that Tuesdays would work for meetings. We will meet on the 2nd Tuesdays of September (Willmar), November (Spicer), January (Willmar), and May (Spicer) at 6 pm. We will also schedule strategic planning sessions with the APC and Staff in October and March. Those dates will be sent out.
 - Father Steve is looking to add people to the APC prior to our next meeting in September.
- Proposed 2017-2018 budget
 - We reviewed the proposed budget, which is roughly \$29,000 less than this year's. One highlight is the fact that we will tithe over \$101,000 next year.
 - The budget was approved by the council.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 pm.