

**Area Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2017**

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

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

Pastor's Report

- There was an additional allegation of sexual abuse by Fr. Jim Devorak. All parishioners in our AFC received a letter regarding that allegation. The Glencoe police department investigated and determined that there was no criminal activity. The Diocesan review board (primarily laity) will now determine if his faculties should be restored.
- There are now 104 lawsuits against the Diocese of New Ulm. The diocese will be holding a meeting with all parishes to discuss the lawsuits and reorganization. We do not have a date for that.
- We are pretty much done with everything for the closure of St. Patrick's and St. Thomas More. Father Steve has been combining bank accounts for each parish to eliminate unnecessary accounts. St. Thomas More has one more CD to mature and then their funds will be consolidated and will sit untouched until the lawsuits are settled. At that time, if there are funds left, they will follow where the parishioners went (x% to Bird Island, x% to Hector, x% to Willmar, etc...)

Information Items

- The dates of the Fall Festival were shared
- Reformation Sunday Common Prayer
 - The Catholic Churches of Our Lady of the Lakes and St. Mary invite our Lutheran brothers and sisters to an ecumenical service of Common Prayer in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. There will be a joint choir and joint bell choir. Tim Cayler is working with the music directors from the Lutheran congregations.
 - This will be held at the Church of St. Mary on Sunday, October 29 (Reformation Sunday), at 4 pm. A light meal will be served following the prayer service. Food and workers will be provided by our AFC and the three ELCA churches in Willmar.

- A notice will be in the WCTrib, and invitations will be sent to other churches in the area (Pastor Tim Johnson from Calvary will be sending these out).
- Many members of the council thought that we should talk to the WCTrib ahead of time and see if they want to write an article about this unprecedented service.
- Pat suggested that we educate our parishioners on the history of the Reformation ahead of this service.
- Financial Reports
 - We ended the 2016-2017 fiscal year with a surplus of funds in our checking account. Do we want to leave it in the checking account or move it to an account that can earn interest?
 - Father Steve will do some checking to see what safe avenue there might be that could also generate some income.

Discussion Items

- Self Study
 - We discussed the self-study numbers for the past year as well as the ten-year trend.
 - Possibly consider a bilingual Mass once a month to get people ready for one priest in the AFC?
 - Is there any way to address the people on the census who are no longer here (primarily HS-29 age group)?
 - First communions were up last year primarily due to students older than 2nd grade who had gone through a two-year preparation.
- Pastoral Planning
 - Father Steve discussed the possibility of doing a survey in the AFC.
 - The Diocese is looking at a couple of different tools - the Disciple Maker Index from Catholic Leadership Institute, which is an online survey tool; and an in-pew survey from Deacon Pat Stokley. This will be discussed at a Diocesan Priest Council meeting in October. If the diocese does not have a decision by mid-November, we will proceed with something on our own.
- Father Steve discussed some of the capital improvements that have taken place in each of our facilities.