

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

**Present:** Father Steve, Father Jerry, Christa Rivers, Michelle Ridl, Pat Malmgren, Gene Platt, Dave Reed, Donna Carver, and Mary Nordstrom

**Absent:** Joan Conway and Terry Braun

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

**Pastor's Report**

- Father Steve gave an update on all that has happened since we met in September. Both parishes had successful Fall Festivals. We had the opportunity to host the prayer service in recognition of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. That event surpassed the expectation of everyone. It was a very emotional evening and is now a challenge how we move forward to uphold the five imperatives that were delivered. Father is grateful for all the help from parishioners of both parishes for the help in hospitality and other areas of that evening.
- There is nothing new on the diocesan bankruptcy.
- People should know that any money donated for a specific purpose is required by law to be used only for that purpose. This is important for people to remember in regards of the DMA – all donations will be used for the specific ministries.
- We had our annual Evening Prayer of Remembrance where we remember our deceased relatives and friends. It went very well. When we talk to fellow parishioners, we need to remind them that this is for anyone who has died; not just those who died in the past year.
- Turkey Bingo was last Sunday and was again very successful. We talked about some ways to make changes in the future. We saw lots of families in attendance and want to continue this fun activity for them.

**Information Items**

- We have 250+ people who have RSVP'ed to attend the Anointing Mass and Thanksgiving dinner. Father Jim Berry and Father Joe Steinbeisser will be helping out at this Mass.
- The Advent Fiat will be mailed out on Tuesday, November 28.

- The Giving Trees will be put up in both churches next week. The Holiday Baskets will be distributed the same way they were last year. People can call in and reserve one, but we will also have them available for people to pick up if they know of a friend/neighbor/family member who needs one.
- The Tithing Committee will meet in December to allocate funds for the first half of the year. This is the first year where our Tithing Funds are over \$100,000.
- We reviewed the October financial reports.
  - Mary pointed out a couple items that vary from the norm.
  - Fr. Steve and Gene have been discussing CD possibilities to invest some of our funds.

### **Discussion Items**

- We discussed the dilemma with Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday. We need to make sure parishioners are educated that Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses are for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Sunday afternoon Masses are Christmas Eve. Due to Christmas falling on a Monday, and the impact on the priests of the additional Masses, there will only be one Sunday morning Mass in Willmar – at 8:30 am. The Sunday morning Mass in Spicer will also be at 8:30 am.
- Father Steve gave an update on every area faith community in the diocese doing the same survey. There were proposals from Catholic Leadership Institute, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) and a private company run by a deacon. The Priest Council recommended to the Bishop that each AFC use the Disciple Maker Index from Catholic Leadership Institute. There are still some hurdles to cross before it is formally approved. If possible, it will be done during Lent, 2018.
- We finished the evening by watching a video on transitions. The video can be found at <https://amazingparish.org/managing-transition/>

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Nordstrom