

Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water

Area WORD Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

7:00 pm – Church of St. Thomas More, Lake Lillian

Joint Agenda

Opening Prayer - Bishop Ken Untener Reflection

Pastor's Report

Aurora McCleary was welcomed as a new member of the Area Word Committee. She is a member of the Church of St. Mary.

Family Promise of Kandiyohi County gave a presentation on 2/25/14 to the Area Pastoral Council on an overview of how Family Promise would work in our area. The recommendation of the Council at this time is to remain a support congregation.

Father Steve recommended that the Service Committee discuss who will be the point people to contact when we need to help support a host parish.

The Ash Wednesday collections in all our worship sites will be donated to Safe Harbor, an existing program run by Heartland Community Action Agency to serve emergency homelessness needs.

There will be no Area Committee meetings in April.

AWC members present: Diane Cronen, Pat Laib, Joe Groshens, Aurora McCleary, Ron Skjong and Diane Pyka.

Members Absent: Randy Suter and Debbie Becker

Review of Minutes and Agenda

Discussion Items:

Survey Results – a handout was given out that contains the prioritized “Other Comments” from our survey and where they might best fit with the three topics that people indicated they were most interested in learning about. Joe Groshens made a proposal for a speaker for the fall on Small Christian Communities – reflections after experiencing them, Q & A time and input regarding plans for Adult Formation initiated from the Adult Survey. Pat Laib asked Father Steve and he agreed to address the parishes this fall. Pat will also ask Erin Wendt or someone from her committee to speak as well.

Membership Opening: a new member, Aurora McCleary, from the Church of St. Mary began her term on the Area Word Committee tonight, 3/4/2014. We have one remaining position from the Church of St. Thomas More open.

Update on Small Christian Communities – there are no new groups forming during Lent.

Update on Family Promise and Area Service discussion – Father addressed this issue in his report to the whole group tonight. Nothing more was added.

Update on Area Faith Formation curriculum planning – Diane Pyka reported on the Area Faith Formation staff and Father Steve's meeting with Sister Julie Schleper, OSB on February 24, 2014, regarding her expertise and experience in Family Based Curriculum.

She shared her work of thirteen years in Becker, MN with the "Bread for the Journey" program. Every family met once a month at church and worked at home the other weeks. This program is a 5 year cycle that is repeated using the main components of our faith. Sacramental preparation is separate. She is in process of writing this curriculum for other parishes to use. The concerns the committee had with her approach was meeting with youth once a month, and the mentality of parents who are used to dropping off their children and would not take the time to work with their children at home. The strengths the committee saw were parents and children hearing the same topic enabling them to share faith together. Faith Formation staff will continue to meet and plan for an area curriculum for fall of 2014.

Update on Youth Ministry team – Christine will be present at the May meeting to give an update.

Update on Faith Formation staffing – Father Steve explained what will be taking place in staffing at the end of this year's contracts. He shared his hope of an area faith curriculum from cradle to grave (all ages) that would break the mold of Faith Formation for youth only. The new staffing would have the same amount of staff but they would be responsible for fewer grades and would be working with adults as well as children. Their salaries would be paid out of the AFC budget. Upcoming job descriptions for the restructured positions will be forthcoming and staff will be applying for the positions they are interested in.

He also shared that the AFC will be hiring a lay Hispanic Minister who will work with the Hispanic population as well as be responsible for RCIA, baptism preparation, and adult faith formation.

Future Agenda Items

Update on Faith Formation staffing

Survey Results

Youth Ministry Team update by Christine Pinto

Update on Area Faith Formation Curriculum

Update on Small Christian Communities

Membership Opening

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at the Church of St. Patrick.

Submitted by Diane Pyka