

Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water

Area WORD Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

7:00 pm – Church of Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer

Joint Agenda

Opening Prayer

Recommitment to our Vision – *Sharing the life of Christ ~ Being the love of Christ*

Pastor's Report – In the absence of Father Steve, Mary Nordstrom welcomed Anisabel Palma to the Area Committee Meeting and reported a new member to the Area Worship Committee, Chris Herman. She asked that we add two items to our agendas for the evening: Mass schedule concerns with two priests and Spotlight which calls attention to parish ministries and will be featuring Area Committees in November. She asked that we talk about how each committee wishes to be spotlighted.

Area Word Member Present: Randy Suter, Diane Cronen, Debbie Becker, Pat Laib, Diane Pyka, Christine Pinto, Anisabel Palma

Absent: Aurora McCleary

Review of Minutes and Agenda

Committee Specific Agenda:

Membership/Elections - Staff membership at AWC meetings will be Diane Pyka, additional staff member on alternating months will be: Christine Pinto, Erin Wendt and Barb Garding. Anisabel Palma will be attending monthly for several of the committees.

Election of Officers for the coming year: Chairperson will be Pat Laib; Vice-Chairperson will be Debbie Becker and Secretary will be Diane Pyka.

Mass schedule concerns with two priests – discussion was held on our current situation of two priests with eight Masses per weekend. The current schedule is planned to continue until January, 2015, at which time there will be one less Mass. Suggestions for eliminating one weekend Mass were: rotating Mass at smaller parishes; seasonal changes for Mass schedule at OLOL and StM; two Masses on Sunday at StM instead of three with one being bi-lingual.

Small Christian Communities Update – Anisabel reported on her work with getting Small Christian Communities up and running. From the 23 groups that started last winter, four will not be continuing. Anisabel has been promoting SCC with the Hispanic Community but has not

seen interest on their part. She will look into making some changes to the format to see if that changes interest levels. It was decided that SCC will be promoted and an invitation to participate will be given at the January 24 retreat at StM. Every SCC group will be invited to have information to share about their group (place, time, when they meet etc.) and if they can be open to new members, an invitation will be given to the retreat participants to come and see what SCC is like.

Advent Speaker – will not be pursued at this time. Our time and efforts will go toward promoting the Area Retreat scheduled for January 24, 2015.

Confirmation Program – Christine Pinto shared information on the new Confirmation structure and curriculum. Their purpose statement is *“Mentoring youth toward an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Catholic community”*. Adult leaders are called Faith Mentors and Faith Formation classes are called Small Faith Sharing groups to more closely reflect the purpose of the program. The curriculum topics are taught by DVD followed by discussion and activities. The program also includes these components: service opportunities, prayer nights, and evening when students will be linked with Small Christian Communities.

Area Retreat on Discipleship – Anisabel informed members of the January 24th Area Discipleship Retreat held at StM beginning at 9am and to conclude with Mass at 5:30pm. The retreat presenter will be Sister Ellen Doyle. Members are encouraged to attend and to promote this event in our parishes.

Spotlight Ministry – the purpose of Spotlight in each parish is: to promote communication, awareness, education, invitation, hospitality, and recognition about our various ministries in the Area Faith Community. The Area Committees will be spotlighted in November (date to be determined). For the WORD Committee, we decided to spotlight what we are about, our goals, objectives and mission/purpose. Pat Laib volunteered to write up a testimonial about why he feels called to be a part of this committee. Randy Suter recommended a blessing at Mass for members of the Area Committees present.

Future Agenda Items:

Grades 3-6 Report (Information) Erin Wendt

Spotlight (Discussion/Decision)

Area January Retreat/Promote SCC (Discussion/Decision)

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at the Church of St. Patrick, Kandiyohi

Submitted by Diane Pyka