

Church of St. Mary
Parish Administrative Council
November 25, 2013
MINUTES

Present: Father Steve, Rick Conway, Sharrie Follmann, Bob Hogan, Penny Johnson, Sue Minnehan, Dave Reed, Kurt Schimek, Bill Schindele, and Mary Nordstrom.

We began with our opening prayer and a recommitment to our Vision statement. The minutes from October and tonight's agenda were approved with no changes.

Pastor's report: Father asked for input on this past weekend's activities for our commissioning of the AFC Vision. The overwhelming opinion was that it was nicely laid out and a moving ritual. Father indicated that the Area Pastoral Council is working on goals to ensure that our Vision is more than just words. The goals and objectives will be written in an upcoming issue of the Fiat.

Area Pastoral Council verbal report: The APC is reading the book *Rebuilt* about the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, which grew from 1,000 to 5,000 parishioners in five years. Father Steve was out there at a conference early in November. He spoke about his experience. This book will be the focus of the APC for the next coming months.

Area Service Committee: Father reported that he received a thank you note from Safe Harbors (Heartland Community Action) for the funds that St. Mary's tithing program.

Finance Reports: Rick provided an updated "Actual vs. Budget" report. Rick also commented that we should update our Foundation Fund CMG balance when we get statements. Father Steve is going to forward electronic statements to the group. We discussed transferring more Foundation money from the money market account. Rick and Dave would like to look at our returns from the fund before we commit where to invest this.

Advent: This year we will be celebrating God's mercy in Penitential services instead of at services where all of the priests attend. The difference is that at a penitential service, we don't receive absolution or the sacrament. There will be many opportunities for individual reconciliation during Advent.

Census discussion: We discussed the trigger to move young adults to their own membership. One suggestion was that we selectively mail to young adults - we may not

want to set them up as a household, but should recognize that we are still trying to reach out to them. We will take this back to AFC department heads to discuss ways to do this.

Fundraising request: We approved the request by the Knights of Columbus to sell Christian-based Christmas cards in the Gathering Space on the weekend of December 7 & 8.

Purpose statement: We approved the PAC purpose statement that was proposed last month: *Our purpose is to be an advisory council to the pastor to ensure that the pastoral and financial needs of the parish are being met.*

Staff Christmas gifts were discussed. Some options were discussed about increasing the amount given. Rick also commented that we should include these in the budget next year; they haven't been in the past.

Crucifix in the sanctuary. Some discussions took place about conversations that we've heard.

Investment with Catholic United Financial Life Insurance policy: There is a policy that was purchased by a deceased parishioner that needs to be addressed. It was decided that we will cash in the policy and put the money in the Foundation funds.