

Saint Mary Catholic Faith Community

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 14th, 2016

Attendance – 6:30 pm

Present: Fr. Brian Mason, Julie Behrman, James Beuscher, Clem Budny, Colleen Czajka, Tom Fredrickson, Jeff Kacala, Eric Karakis, Fred Matestic, Daniel O'Connor, James Podewils, Tim Reidy, Suzie Ryder, Maria Schram, Jim Schubilske, Carol Stachowiak, and Gina Styer. Excused: Matt Cool and Jim Maro. Resigned: Mary Koman

Opening Prayer

Tom Fredrickson led Scriptural reflection.

Review of Previous Minutes

The meeting minutes of September 12, 2016 were approved by those in attendance.

Combined Meeting of the Pastoral Council and Pastoral Staff

Introductions

Members of both parties present for the meeting exchanged introductions.

Moving from Maintenance to Mission: Keynote Presentation from the Leadership Conference of 9/30-10/01/16

Video from this event was viewed in its entirety by those present.

Break/Snack

Pastoral Council & Pastoral Staff Conversation: Future Staffing at St. Mary –Highlights of the Ensuing Discussion

Members of both the Staff and the Council engaged in a free-flowing exchange of views concerning the future staffing of the parish. Using the Keynote Video from the Leadership Day as a launch pad, dialogue was shared as it related to moving the parish from its present day sense of 'maintenance' to a yet-to-be determined future regarding its 'mission.' The need for a new vision statement is evident to support this movement. Highlights from the conversation follow:

Expanded efforts in Evangelization are key to the renewal and continued growth of the parish.

Evangelization seeks to place people in a position to encounter Christ and develop a personal relationship with Jesus. This applies to those who have never known Christ and to those within our own faith community who know about Jesus but do not yet have a personal relationship with him.

Engaging the whole community in missionary discipleship will require moving from what is presently the status quo to a new sense of purpose-driven mission.

Special emphasis must be placed on the ongoing formation/discipleship of our young people here at St. Mary.

St. Mary has very good liturgical experiences presently for those in attendance. Moving from 'very good to great' will mean addressing the needs of those present AND realizing there is more to do to reach those not coming to liturgy.

The Eucharistic celebration of Mass is the "Source and Summit" of our Catholic tradition. Finding ways to encourage greater attendance at liturgy is critical to Evangelization.

Making "Music, Message and Ministry" attractive to the prevailing culture will mean more diversity in liturgical offerings.

The small group format affords growth in intrapersonal development and interpersonal connectedness. Offering small group opportunities in Spirituality has been key in the past to increasing attendance at parish liturgies and service to outreach ministries.

Realizing parents are the primary religious educators of their children, more must be done to encourage family attendance at Mass, where all can be nourished through the Word of God and strengthened through the Eucharist.

A Mission Statement reflecting the "New Evangelism" of the 21st Century is now needed. All ministerial offerings/programs will then be scrutinized through this lens as to their effectiveness and relevance to the "New Evangelism."

Empower the gifts and skills already given to many of our parishioners. Discern and identify those who are potential leaders. Provide opportunities for the implementation of those gifts and skills in service to St. Mary's.

Staff additions will be addressed after the crafting of the new Mission Statement.

21st Century technology provides greater opportunity for nuances in liturgical celebration. Technology could be embedded to enhance homiletics and the experience of the Mass through possible projection of Scripture verses, song lyrics, and/or religious art. Even the reception of the Sacraments could be experienced visually in new ways.

In 2017, St. Mary Catholic Faith Community will celebrate its 175th Anniversary. Through visioning and the creation of a new Mission Statement, our parish continues to address the

ever-changing needs of its parishioners, allowing for ongoing transformation of priorities and purpose-driven mission.

Chairperson's Comments

Mary Koman has resigned her position on the Pastoral Council, citing health issues. We thank her for her service to the parish.

In lieu of Mary's departure, Eric will provide both Scripture and a snack for our meeting in January.

Pastor's Report

The Royal Affair was a resounding success. Over \$28,000.00 was raised to implement a STEM program for our school.

Pam Lownik: Haiti Update

Efforts are already underway to help in the rebuilding of our sister parish in Haiti. Catholic Relief Services, along with assistance from the USCCB, have joined with St. Mary in response to the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Matthew. Jim Podewils will travel to Haiti during the first week of December to partner in a collaborative approach for stewardship of resources with a local community willing to share their time, talent, and technology in this endeavor.

Liason Reports

Jim Maro –Outreach/Social Concerns

The report submitted by Jim was not presented this evening due to an oversight.

Fred Matestic –Pastoral Care

Fred provided a written update of this commission. Presently, Pastoral Care reaches out to the parish's ill, homebound, those in hospitals, and the grieving. An emphasis has been placed on the 5 w's in regard to their ministry. Fred reported there is work being done to the record-keeping data base to ensure effective ministry efforts. The group plans to launch a Greeting Card Ministry and to continue efforts for ongoing recruitment and training. The Bereavement Mass of Hope/Healing was very well-attended.

SLAW Report:

Meeting was cancelled by Dan O'Connor due to work-related conflicts.

Tom Fredrickson-LFF (Lifelong Faith Formation)

Tom met for lunch with Jeff Kacala to continue dialogue on this ministry.

Carol Stachowiak/Julie Behrman – Deanery Meeting

Julie and Carol reported that many parishes in the Deanery are actively working to implement ideas gleaned from the Leadership Presentation. On November 20th, Deaneries throughout the Archdiocese will be presenting displays at the Cathedral showcasing parishes “Corporal Works of Mercy” as the “Year of Mercy” draws to a close. Photos taken throughout the year of the various ministries of St. Mary Parish, alongside those of other parishes, comprise the displays. Carol and Julie reported they felt St. Mary Parish had much to be proud of regarding ministerial offerings.

Tim Reidy –Parish School Commission

Tim attended the October 11th and November 8th meetings. The topics of Allergy Policy, Inclement Weather Plans, Early Dismissal once a month, Bulletin Articles, School Marketing, Adequate and Competitive Teacher Compensation, Staff Enrichment Opportunities (G/T program and resources for students), Staff Visitation to other schools, a Faith Formation In-Service, and Volunteerism to the school were discussed.

New Business:

Pam Lownik provided handouts on Mission Essentials for Parishes.

Our next meeting will be on January 9th, 2017!

The meeting closed with prayer and adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen A. Czajka

November 15th, 2016