

Saint Mary Catholic Faith Community
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

May 8th, 2017

Attendance – 6:30 pm

Present: Julie Behrman, Clem Budny, Matt Cool, Colleen Czajka, Jeff Kacala, Eric Karakis, Fred Matestic, Tim Reidy, Suzie Ryder, Jim Schubilske, Carol Stachowiak, and Gina Styer

Excused: Tom Fredrickson, Jim Maro, and Fr. Brian Mason

Opening Prayer

Tim Reidy led Scriptural reflection.

Review/Approval of 4/3/17 Pastoral Council Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved as written by those in attendance.

Pastor's Report (Courtesy of Jeff Kacala)

Search for Director of Liturgical Music

The search for a new Director of Liturgical Music continues. Two candidates auditioned for the position. One decided to withdraw the application; the other was turned down due to a desire to continue working present full-time employment while working full-time at St. Mary. Two additional candidates have emerged and will audition/interview over the next few weeks.

Clarification: Dan O'Connor is not leaving the St. Mary Staff. He will hold the position, Director of Liturgy/Pastoral Care, upon the hire of a new Director of Liturgical Music.

Departure of Staff Member

Jim Podewils, currently the Director of Administrative Services at the parish, has accepted an appointment as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Financial Institutions for the State of Wisconsin. His last day at St. Mary is Friday, May 12th. Fr. Brian is in the process of accepting applications for the position. To date, 10 individuals have expressed their interest and have submitted applications. It is hoped the position will be filled as of July 1st, 2017.

Pastoral Staff

There is an ongoing need for another full-time staff addition at St. Mary. At present, Adult Formation, Adult Confirmation, Baptism Preparation, Evangelization, and RCIA are without a full-time director. These areas are currently serviced through the efforts of the other members of the Pastoral Staff, in addition to their contracted responsibilities. Fr. Brian remains concerned these above-mentioned areas will not receive enough attention and direction until another full-time position can be funded and an individual hired.

Rich Curran Update

The next scheduled meeting with Rich Curran is May 23rd, 2017. The Parish Staff will continue to work on the Parish Success Initiative, utilizing the “Coaching” Rich has already provided to this point. More information will be shared with the parish community after the meeting.

Upcoming Discernment of Pastoral Council Nominees

The Discernment Process for new members to the Pastoral Council has begun. Parishioners are being encouraged to submit nominations to Fr. Brian and the current members of the Pastoral Council. A form can be found in the bulletin for use in this process. Pastoral Council members will be in the Gathering Space and at the Bell Tower entrance May 13th, 14th, 20th, & 21st, providing assistance through answering questions about the nomination process as well as the actual responsibilities of the members. Final Discernment will be held on June 12th in the Gathering Space at 6:30 pm. All present Pastoral Council members are to be in attendance.

Spring 2017 Deanery Assembly of Parishes

Regarding RCIA, other parishes in the Deanery District are experiencing a decline. Over 50% of these parishes have only 1 adult or no one interested in participating in the process. St. Mary continues to experience ongoing, expressed interest in RCIA.

Biographies of the two new bishops in the Archdiocese can be found on the Archdiocesan website.

A discussion took place concerning the use of video technology at the various parishes. Many parishes make little use of video technology on a weekly basis. More should be done to encourage greater application of video technology in the total parish experience. Our Lady of Lourdes is considered one of the model parishes for implementation of video technology. Workshops are offered routinely at OLOL to help with technological application in the parish.

Chairperson's Comments

Julie Behrman thanked the Pastoral Council for their participation over the 2016-2017 term. She reminded the membership about the need for their active participation in the Discernment process.

Liason Reports

School Report – Tim Reidy

Good things are happening at the Parish School. Participation in Lenten stewardship projects was enthusiastically embraced at every class level. First Communion was a huge success and a wonderful experience.

Staffing is completed for the 2017-2018 school year. FT teachers to replace retiring staff, a FT Director of Curriculum and Learning, a PT Guidance Counselor, and a PT Math Interventionist have been hired. All new hires are required to take the 'Safeguarding All God's Children' course.

Road construction is causing some issues with school-related traffic. The last month of school will be affected. Extra precautions regarding safety are being emphasized.

The Parish School was the target of a recent Malware attack. IT measures are being taken to rectify the situation.

Other Business

A handout on Spirituality of Stewardship – Conference for Leaders was passed to all members who were present. Pastoral Council members are urged to attend either November 3rd or 4th.

Jeff Kacala reported that the ALPHA program has 65 active participants during the Thursday morning and evening sessions. Good start to a program that will continue to be offered at St. Mary.

Closing

The meeting closed with The Prayer of St. Francis. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 12th, 2017. Adjournment was at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen A. Czajka,- Pastoral Council Secretary