

**St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
Pastoral Council Meeting
January 14th, 2020 - 6:30 pm**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Fr. Brian Mason, Clem Budny, Julie Behrman, Mary Beth Katorski, Danielle Michaels, David Kreidler, Aaron Bieniek, Lisamarie Collins, Maureen Riemer, Deb Schenk, Robert Gabor, Tammy DuBois, Jess Petre, Kyle Shimek

Guests: Pam Lownik, Jeff Kacala, Dan Hansen, Anne Van Deusen, Jacque Kelnhofer, Rebecca Moczulewski, Dan O'Connor, Maria Schram

Excused: Thomas Bartnicki

Meeting started at 6:30pm

Opening Prayer

Approval of [Minutes from November](#)

State of the Parish Overview

Anne Van Deusen - Director of Liturgical Music

- The adult choir sings from September through May. Attendance has been up and down due to "life" issues of health and family.
- We have a number of new high school students taking on the role of cantor.
- The logistics of where the cantor is located has changed in an attempt to make the ministry more cohesive and responsive.
- Jammin' for Jesus continues to grow with students from grades 5 through 8. The group is becoming more adept at leading and the hope is that they will continue their ministry in high school.
- The organ is in a place where patching it up is becoming less and less of an option.
- The sound system in general is not really adequate for the space and needs some attention.
- Creating more small music ministry groups is a goal. This might be groups that play at Mass, or putting on a musical production.
- The Safe Environment program can be a challenge in ministry - which is dependent on building relationships.
- The Resurrection choir is 50 members strong and continues to provide a valuable ministry. Members participate as their schedules allow.

Jacque Kelnhofer - Director of Safe Environment

- Safe Environment involves 3 components: a live (one time) 2 to 3 hour program, a background check which is renewed every 5 years, and a review of an online document which outlines mandatory reporting.
- One challenge of the ministry is communicating about Safe Environment to everyone that might be affected by it. Everyone from parents of the school to everyday parishioners that want to be involved in various ministries.
- St. Mary is a zero tolerance campus. Any infraction is grounds for dismissal, and expired background checks must be renewed or ministers, teachers, volunteers, may not participate in their activities.
- Working with those who manage social media for the parish also falls under the Safe Environment ministry.
- Campus wide compliance has improved over the years due to a central database.
- Outlying groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts also fall under Safe Environment. Boy Scouts in particular, even though they have their own training which is accepted by the archdiocese, are in 100% compliance with the Safe Environment here at St. Mary.
- The goal for 2020 is looking at each ministry here at St. Mary to make sure we continue to keep 100% compliance.

Jeff Kacala - Director of Catholic Formation

- The world in which we live is increasingly less Christian. Our challenge is preparing people to live in that world as Christian disciples.
- Relational ministry allows us to dig deeper with those serviced by our ministries. No longer can we just deliver curriculum and put on programs. The call is to bring people to discipleship - to a love of Jesus Christ. Alpha and Reach More small groups are designed with this goal in mind.

Rebecca Moczulewski - Disciple Apprentice Coordinator

- The focus at St. Mary is relational ministry. Trying to create a warm environment that kids look forward to experiencing.
- Many new small group volunteers have allowed group sizes to be reduced. When groups are too big, the kids don't get the individual attention they deserve.
- More hands on activities and more service opportunities are being created in order to help kids make connections to the content of our faith.
- The logistics of the program can be challenging. Involving more of the community in planning and organizing will be a key to future success.
- The Son Burst Cafe has been a success and is leading to conversations around how to provide more opportunities like this.
- A High School leadership team (mostly Juniors) has been meeting since July and has been instrumental in addressing the needs of the high schoolers in our faith formation program.

- Just Five Days is entering its third year and integrates Scripture, Service, and Community in a life changing way for our middle school youth. The question of how we can open that type of experience up to more participants is being discussed.

Maria Schram - Principal, St. Mary Parish School

- St. Mary Virtues has become a way of life for students at St. Mary. Each month a Virtue is highlighted and connected to Catholic Social Teaching. Students regularly reflect on how the Virtues play out in their lives.
- Faith in Our Families has been started in order to connect school and community with Sunday Worship.
- The school has met all of the benchmarks for accreditation and will be applying for exemplary status in Catholic Identity.
- STEM opportunities now range from K5 through 7th grade.
- Music and Fine Arts continue to be staples of what we do to provide a well rounded and thoughtful education for all of our students.
- Enrollment and finances continue to be challenges but despite that, the teaching staff is top notch and committed.

Dan O'Connor - Director of Worship and Director of Pastoral Care

- Church membership has fluctuated over the years, mostly in a negative direction. This affects ministries such as Eucharistic ministers and Lectors. Whereas we used to hold group trainings, now most of those trainings are done on an individual basis.
- Assisting Sacristans are now present on every Sunday and Holy Days. Wedding and Funeral hosts are present for weddings and funerals.
- Leadership succession and mentoring is a real key to making sure ministries continue uninterrupted as volunteers move on.
- Pastoral Care, as a Commission, is strong and continues to thrive due to all of the ministries under its umbrella. We have over 50 people involved in Pastoral Care.

Pam Lownik - Director of Social Concerns and Outreach

- Integrating Catholic Social Teaching into all aspects of Church Life is the foundation of Social Concerns and Outreach.
- Relationships matter supremely in all of our ministry partnerships.
- The focus this year is retrospective and centers on taking care of each other through prayer and community.
- Making our faith relevant, through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching, is key to the ministry.
- New collaborations with ministry partners are fueling the work of the commission.

- Communication is being upgraded through an increased presence on the website and social media.
- A database is being created for all current ministers in our outreach ministries.
- The Encyclical [Deus Caritas Est](#) provides important background for understanding the work of the Social Concerns and Outreach commission.

Comments from Fr. Brian

Closing Prayer

Meeting concluded at 8:52 pm

Next scheduled meeting - February 11, 2020