

Pastoral Council Meeting,

January 13, 2022

St. Mary Catholic Faith Community

Hales Corners, WI

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Clem Budny, Thomas Bartnicki (attended on zoom), Lynn Czaplewski, David Fritz, Mike Hamlin, Tom Fredrickson, Andre Lesperance, Mary Matestic, Maureen Riemer, Jim Podewils

Excused: Deb Gonnella, Lisamarie Collins, Deb Schenk, Tammy DuBois

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Aaron lead a Lectio Divina meditation on the Wedding Feast at Cana

**Approval of November Minutes:** The minutes for November were approved.

**Live Stream Update:** Chris Koleske

In order to help the homebound and elderly to stay in touch with St. Mary TV Mass, the 4:00 Mass on Saturday will be video taped each week and then uploaded on Sunday morning for viewing. This will become a "Video Ministry" in line with all the other liturgical ministries. Training will take place in January and the uploading of the Mass will begin in mid-February. Volunteers will be trained by Anne Wycklendt, Blake Manz and Dale Webler

### **Commission and Deanery Reports**

Deanery report: The Deanery did not meet this month

School report: Two issues arose from the meeting: allaying tardiness among students and student retention.

Pastoral Care report: The full commission of Pastoral Care will convene for the first time in February. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will take place February 18/19 at all masses on the weekend. Discussion around Covid safety occurred especially during the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Fr. Aaron will be getting a postcard out to the people of St. Mary in order to identify needs. Surfacing the names of the homebound is critical.

[W Pastoral Care Working Group Meeting Minutes Dec 8 2021.docx](#)

SLAW: Did not meet

Social Concerns: November 16, 2021: The Racial Justice Committee will be holding a morning of reflection on February 12, 2022 in the Gathering Space. All are welcome to come and learn about Racial Justice. The title is "On the Road to Damascus".

[W Jan 2022 Road to Damascus Bulletin.docx](#)

[W Social Concerns Meeting Report - Nov 2021.docx](#)

Finance Committee: Clem Budny reported that the parish is currently in good financial health.

Formation: Jeff Kacala will be starting a new “Reach More” leadership program in March through our affiliation with Catholic Evangelical. All Council members are encouraged to come. Meetings will run for 12 weeks on Tuesdays from 6:30 until 8:30 beginning March 8, 2022. This program is designed to give people skills to better live their vocations.

### **Advent/Christmas Review:**

Fr. Aaron reported. Advent opened many opportunities for prayer: Evening Prayer on Sundays, Rosary on Monday nights, “Be Still and Know” evening of reflection, Close of the year of St. Joseph, One percent challenge. Blue books were not continued; however, those who asked for them were attended to. Fr. Aaron was very blessed by the Christmas celebrations. He felt at home within his new community.

Kneeling during the Eucharistic prayer was received well. The 6:00 Christmas Mass will no longer be called a Children’s Mass because all Masses are for all people/families. Keeping theatrics out of the liturgy is preferred, therefore the Nativity Play by children ended.

**Director of Social Concerns:** Pam Lownik, Director of Social Concerns, will be retiring in June of 2022. She will still be very involved in Haiti and as a parish member. With the many ministries generated over the years, this ministry will stay alive by the people who lead the different outreach programs. In 2023, St. Mary will acquire an Associate Pastor and he will be offered the opportunity to be the overseer of Social Concerns, meanwhile the parish will look for someone who can step up in the interim to sustain this ministry.

**Covid Discussion:** The statement of Archbishop ListECKI on Covid protocols (January 6, 2022) was discussed at length. The need for certain protocols to be in place within the parish so that those more vulnerable feel safe was raised. The principle of precaution for the sake of the common good as well as the mercy of God brought the Council to consider ways to safeguard the people of the parish. Fr. Aaron took all under advisement and will take this to the Staff and see how the Archdiocese addresses the issue further.

### **Administrator’s Report:**

Many events are coming up:

Feb. 2: Candlemas Day; February 3: Feast of St. Blaise, the blessing of throats will take place on the weekend of Feb. 5/6; April 24: Divine Mercy Sunday; June 19: Body and Blood of the Lord with Eucharistic procession down Forest Home Ave.

More training for altar servers is coming up. The Gathering Space is changing its face becoming a place for more formation and adult engagement. The Robert Barron series on the Mass begins January 25 all are welcome to attend.

The meeting closed with a Blessing.