

Cluster Pastoral Council Meeting
August 4th, 2015 – 7:-00 p.m.

The Trinity Cluster Pastoral Council met on August 4th, 2015 at St. Patrick in Monona. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Fr. Nils Hernandez, Wayne McGlaughlin, Dave Koopman, Ron Berns, Deb Smith, Ashley Simon, and Julie Heitland. Absent were JoAnn Lang, Jennifer Benda and Lilia Tinderholt.

Deb Smith led the opening prayer. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved with motions by Wayne McGlaughlin and Ron Berns.

A decision was made to include committee reports beginning at our September meeting, as it wasn't yet in this month's agenda.

The council members discussed their reading assignment "Our Iceberg is Melting." All members commented on their impression of the book. President Ashley Simon asked, "what are some of our icebergs?" A discussion ensued, and the following "icebergs" were identified:

- Lack of participation and fellowship after church.
- 20/80 split in things, such as donations, participation, etc.
- Unity of the Cluster; we need to be well represented by all three parishes.
- Communication
- Too many organizations; there tends to be lots of competition for work by similar groups.

The question was then posed, "Who is Father Nils? (regarding the reading assignment)" The following council members responded:

1. Wayne M. Combination of Fred and Alice
2. Ron B. Alice
3. Fr. Nils FRED
4. Deb S. Alice and Fred

Further discussed were who the "scouts" in our Cluster are. Scouts were defined as persons who see problems and take action to remedy them. Examples are Dick Huinker who addressed the tinting of the windows in St. Patrick's church, and Connie Leete for her efforts. It was discussed that there are many of these "Scouts" in our Cluster of varying degrees. It was discussed that the Cluster Council doesn't want to be the organization that just talks and does little or nothing else.

Continuing, it was discussed that this council needs a focus for the year. This was defined as what can we, as a Cluster Council do to make our Church (Cluster) a welcoming place. This led to a discussion of the different "personalities" of the Cluster Churches. It was then asked, "What should we focus on?"

Deb Smith stated she would like to focus on UNITY within the Trinity Cluster. There then arose a lot of discussion on how to promote unity. After a time, Fr. Nils

posed the following question to the Cluster Council, "How many people feel welcome in church?" He said he hears this as a problem from young families, especially when he is working with families preparing for Baptism. He said we need participation, and to feel mercy for each other, and we need to focus on all ages of our members. He ended his statement with, "we need to think of Unity and Mercy!" He had one final thought, "don't waste time on the "No-no's."

For our next meeting, Trinity Cluster Council members are asked to read the "Year of Mercy" document, which starts in December, and to seek answers to the following questions, 1. What are the key elements, and 2. How do we apply those elements? It was suggested that the Liturgy Committee should also ask these questions.

The leader for our opening and closing prayer for our next meeting is Ron Berns.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 10th, 7pm, and the St. Patrick Parish, McCauley Center.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne McGlaughlin, Secretary