



Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes November 13, 2014

Members Present: Chairperson Wayne McGlaughlin, Ron Berns, Joann Lange, Deb Smith, Jennifer Benda, Lilia Tinderholt, Dave Koopman, Ashley Simon, Fr. Nils Hernandez.

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. with prayer led by Deb Smith with a reflection of the daily gospel. The minutes from the October minutes were reviewed and approved by Ron Berns and Ashley Simon.

Ron Berns questioned page 3 section A of the Model constitution bylaws for Cluster Pastoral Councils. This section refers to the voting members of the council. Fr. Nils clarified that all members of the council are voting members so the wording in the model bylaws was changed to reflect this. We will be doing a line-by-line analysis of the bylaws and writing them to reflect the Trinity Cluster.

Deb Smith brought before the council a recommendation to change weekday and weekend mass times. The recommendation was to move all weekday masses within the cluster to 9:00 a.m. as follows: St. Mary's on Wednesday, St. Patrick's on Thursday and St. Bridget's on Friday. Ashley Simon commented that she likes the idea of continuity between all churches. It will make it easier for those who wish to attend weekday masses to know what time they will begin. An earlier time was discussed (7:00 or 7:15) for those who might wish to attend mass before going to work. Fr. Nils commented that the ones who attend mass are pretty consistent and an earlier time would not make any difference. A motion was made by Deb Smith to move the weekday masses to 9:00 a.m. at all parishes and seconded by Joann Lange. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Deb Smith then presented a second recommendation from the liturgy committee to move the Sunday 10:00 a.m. mass to 10:30 a.m. This would allow Fr. Nils time to celebrate the sacraments (Baptism and Reconciliation) with families and enjoy time with parishners if receptions were held following a mass. It would also allow for additional travel time between parishes. Deb Smith made the motion to move the Sunday 10:00 a.m. mass to 10:30 a.m. effective with the January 2015 rotation. Joann Lange. Seconded the motion. During the discussion of this motion, it was decided that this was a good idea. The motion passed unanimously. The notice of the change will be published in the November 22, 2014 bulletin.

The council began a discussion on writing a mission statement for the Trinity Cluster. The process was begun with a discussion on three (3) essential questions. Question 1: If Jesus were here today, what words would he give us to direct our future? Responses included: be prepared; grow in your faith; bond – togetherness – unity; love your neighbor; be compassionate; be merciful and show forgiveness; stop the materialism as it is counter cultural. Question 2: Why do you think the Universal Church exists? Responses included: guide to heaven; founded by Jesus Christ with Peter as the head of the church; created for all as Jesus died for all; our beliefs and traditions; Traditions are traced back to the Apostles; sacraments; stay strong and true to Catholic beliefs; Enculturation of the Gospel. Questions 3: What makes our cluster unique and special? Responses included: diversity; 3 personalities with their own history tied together by rails and trails; believe in Jesus Christ;

strong faith; strong values and families; one (1) priest serves three (3) parishes within the cluster.

The members then looked for commonalities within the responses to look for key words that would be used in writing the mission statement. The four (4) key things to include in the mission statement include: identity; purpose; function; and future. The mission statement that the liturgy committee worked on the previous week was presented to the council. It was discussed to see how it fit in with the ideas of the council. Following this discussion, three (3) mission statements were presented.

- Option 1 written by Ashley Simon – “We, the Trinity Cluster, are committed to guiding/leading all souls to Heaven. We seek to fulfill this mission through the Word, Sacraments, prayers, and actions. We hope to do this by growing in our own faith unity with God and one another.” [omit our own]
- Option 2 written by Lilia Tinderholt – “We are the Trinity Cluster, a Catholic community of faith and diversity united in Christ, celebrating God’s love through the Holy Eucharist, sharing our gifts and living the Gospel to continue building a unified, loving, compassionate, and welcoming church.” [omit and diversity][change church to cluster]
- Option 3 written by Jennifer Benda – We are the Trinity Cluster a Catholic community bound together by our faith-based traditions as we celebrate the Eucharist of God’s love living the Gospel and sharing our gifts.”

Following discussion on some wording (see [] above) and combining them together it was decided that the wording for the DRAFT is as follows:

We are the Trinity Cluster, a Catholic community of faith, united in Christ, committed to leading all souls to heaven. Celebrating God’s love through the Holy Eucharist, sharing our gifts and living the Gospel to continue building a unified loving, compassionate, and welcoming cluster.

The final draft will be discussed and voted on at the December meeting. Dave Koopman made a motion to accept the DRAFT pending the wording to be accepted at the next meeting. Joanne Lange (or Deb Smith? did not catch who) seconded the motion. It was approved pending a revision of the wording.

The December meeting was moved to December 4th at 6:00 p.m. It will be a social with potluck with the Liturgy Committee and Faith Formation committee. Spouses are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with re recitation of the Synod Family Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Heitland, secretary