

Cluster Pastoral Council Meeting  
September 10th, 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, Julie Heitland, Lilia Tinderholt and JoAnn Lang.

Ron Berns led the opening prayer. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved with one correction. Motion by Dave Koopman, Seconded by Ron Berns, approved.

Committee Reports:

- **Liturgy Committee**, Julie Heitland: Commissioning of new Faith Formation instructors is this coming weekend. Advent programs and new settings for service music. Stated music has already been handed out after they were approved.
- **Social Justice**, Lilia Tinderholt: Food pantry, in May bags were distributed to parishes. Also said the Caring Cradle is still going with Early Head Start being the recipient (85 families). The next meeting is October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **Stewardship Committee**, JoAnn Lang: The Time and Talent survey will be ready to be sent out, but that it “should be looked over.”

Discussion then turned to Faith Formation, which it was pointed out needs a representative and that is in the works. Chairperson Simon said that she has spoken to Andrew Zeisel, and he has an intention to do something, and is looking at getting some educational materials for that.

Fr. Nils said that it is important to have a plan so things are organized throughout the year. Chairperson Simon said, “We should have concrete ideas by next meeting.” Julie Heitland said that the song from Totus Tuus will be used as a meditation song at communion. Greeting people at the door prior to Mass was discussed, especially getting children involved. It was also mentioned that a general greeting be implemented prior to Mass starting. Fr. Nils commented on the matter, saying it needs to be looked at, perhaps by the Liturgy Committee.

Chairperson Simon introduced the “Year of Mercy” from Pope Francis. She asked that the members of the council give their thoughts on it.

- Dave Koopman related to news, saying priests can absolve the sin of abortion. Fr. Nils explained this was a special permission.
- Lilia Tinderholt stated that the word “Mercy” is a big word by itself. Asked “How do we project that Mercy to others?” She brought up the Corporal Works of Mercy, asking, how to welcome others, either the homebound, the sick, or others? She mentioned that we could start local,

and then go outside of that. She related this to Fr. Nils' outreach to the care centers, including offering Mass there.

- Julie Heitland said Mercy is God, and that it is concrete and tangible towards us, not some abstract notion but an action.
- JoAnn Lang mentioned people not feeling welcome at their Baby's Baptisms at the church. She asked how we can be merciful in welcoming people to Mass that may not be regular attendees.
- Wayne McGlaughlin brought up the missionaries that the Vatican (Pope Francis) said would be sent out to diocese around the world. Asked how do we go about getting them to come to our Cluster. Some discussion ensued, including missionary priests that do outreach. Fr. Nils explained that the Pope asks some retired priests and bishops to apply to be missionaries.
- Ron Berns spoke of "Indulgences." Said he hasn't heard the word for 40 years. Said we still have them, saying there is even a book on them.
- Deb Smith said she thinks of the Year of Mercy as the "Year of Forgiveness."
- Fr. Nils brought up two items; one is that Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life, and a key element in the documents of the Church. Also, he said the Church's call during the year of Mercy is another key element. He asked this question, "How can we make this Mercy applicable to all (as a church)? He said, "Mercy is a free gift, everyone can get it."
- Chairperson Simon asked, "how can we make people welcome, to represent Mercy, and still be compassionate?" She quoted Jesus, "Be merciful, just as your father is merciful." It was stated that December 8<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of the Year of Mercy, and the question was asked, what can we do to kick it off? It was suggested that we might be able to start it on the weekend prior to December 8<sup>th</sup>. She also brought up the season of Lent, and a program called "24 for the Lord." Fr. Nils explained it as 24 continuous hours of Adoration. Fr. Nils said he will explore the best way to do this, saying it could happen during the Corpus Christi.

Discussion then returned to the reading of "Our Iceberg is Melting" by John Kotter and Holger Rathgeber. The question was posed, "why did we read it?" It was for pastoral planning, and to reduce complacency and increase urgency and to get a team to guide the change via representatives. Also it was asked how do we get the message out? (Pgs 72-75). Discussion went on on how to get the message out, or "how to be Louis." On page 78, it spoke of the percent of people who buy-in to the concepts, and on page 92, it speaks of how to meet people where they are and bringing them up, such as the penguins' discussion of the kindergarten teachers.

Chairperson Simon brought up the time changes for Faith Formation. She said this change was hard but necessary, and said we need to be tactful and respectful, understanding the fears of those affected.

She also said we need long-term goals, including 5, 10, and 15 year goals. It was asked how this has been successfully done in other parish clusters.

Fr. Nils asked the following questions:

1. Do we know our fears?
2. Are we realistic in our planning? Do people even care about their faith? How do we bring people back to the Parish?
3. We need to focus on our parish finances, looking based on concrete evidence. He said we need to not be afraid, as fear can paralyze people. He said making decision can be painful, especially in the areas of buildings, staff, and other things.

JoAnn Lang asked, "what can we do to help Fr. Nils?" The answer was to plan for it, and Chairperson Simon gave as an example the reduction in Faith Formation pay. She said it was sudden and hard to cope with for some people.

Fr. Nils said we need to communicate well, saying he needs to do so as well, referencing the Iceberg book stresses communication to overcome problems.

Concerning the Finance Council, Fr. Nils said he needed to show them the realities of the finances relative to parish income. More discussion ensued about the importance and reasons for good communication.

Fr. Nils said that for our next meeting, he will try to get a model of a successful Cluster for us to look at. He said we will also have 5 topics for us to look at. President Simon asked us to recall Pope John Paul II when he said, "we have to dialog."

Fr. Nils then discussed a regional meeting with Archbishop Jackels to be held with cluster leadership members and their spouses on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. He said that at our next meeting we need to plan on a social for December 10<sup>th</sup>.

The leader for our opening and closing prayer for our next meeting is Dave Koopman.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, and the St. Patrick Parish, McCauley Center.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne McGlaughlin, Secretary