

## St. Mary Pastoral Council Minutes

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Parish Center Dining Room, 7:00pm

**Mission Statement:** We are a Catholic community sent forth to visibly bring the presence of Christ to the world around us.

**Present:** Father Roman, Amy Nordloh, Peg Malmberg, John Higgins, Frank Marrese, Peggy Concannon, Dick Thoun, Jude Martin, Len Hartnell

**Absent/Excused:** Tim Lippert, Ray Schendl, Jeff Swanson

**Guest:** Steve Hejnal, Business Manager

Opening prayer: A copy of the Archdiocesan 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary prayer was distributed by Amy and was prayed out loud by all together.

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

**Minutes:** Motion to approve by Peggy C, seconded by John; minutes approved. Len to send copies of most recent Pastoral Council meetings to Pauletta Lyons for publication on the web site.

**Pastors Report:** Father distributed copies of three pieces of information from the Archdiocese regarding the current ages of the diocesan priests. He stated that two-thirds of the Masses said in the Milwaukee Archdiocese are said by retired priests. Currently in the archdiocese, most of the priests are much older, with the largest number being 80-plus years of age. We also read and discussed information on parish and archdiocesan donations. Father prepared a 2-page handout for this weekend's bulletin regarding the sexual abuse policy for the archdiocese and includes information regarding the archdiocesan assessment. Although there is no current information on church attendance, generally within the whole archdiocese, some places were hit hard, where attendance was down significantly. He is sure that it will continue to be an issue.

- **Amazing Parish Conference:** Father would like to mandate that both Pastoral and Finance Councils go through the modules of the Amazing

Parish together, focusing on team-building and prayer and worship. We will meet three times in the church, watching each module and discussing each together. It will help both Councils move forward. We will set some dates and will need everyone's commitment to be there. Father will start the presentation, we will show the module, and then discuss it. Father is going over this with the church staff now, and they are finding it very helpful. The parish liaisons will then take it back to their individual committees. Parish staff personnel who have already viewed and discussed have been enlightened by it. The dates to view them will be discussed and set.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Finance: Peg M – Meeting night has been changed to tomorrow night, November 27<sup>th</sup>. This to try to facilitate getting reports looked at, reviewed, and analysis done. The annual report, which was mailed out to all parishioners in October, shows our year-end financial figures and budget. Peg asked if there are any questions regarding the report. John said that he had gotten a few people note that we had gotten the donation from the Reagan estate. Peg did not send out the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter for the new fiscal year because when finance last met, they had just received the financials just a few hours ahead of time. Finance had little chance to review it, seeing many errors which needed revisions. They will be finalized tomorrow night and Peg will send out the revised copies once they are finalized. We are watching contributions and have asked our accountant for some additional reporting analysis. She added two prior-year columns to the Budget vs. Actual report which will allow us to compare this year to the two previous years.

The front steps had an issue with railings. We had thought we were going be able to use the existing railings, but they were in much poorer condition than originally thought. New railings had to be fabricated, which took additional time. The steps cannot be opened until the railings are in place. With the snow and cold, questions have surfaced about at what temperature all the materials are okay to seat and hold. Father stated that he was advised that may happen this week. The stairs in front of the gym may have to wait until spring. The ramp up the side of the church has been

completed. John H confirmed that John Schmidbauer just sent an email back stating that he is checking with our contractor for a product sheet to determine the proper temperature to set the railing epoxy. He will follow up.

John H noted that the school is showing a profit so far. They are about 5 individuals shy, but when doing their budgeting, they used a lower tuition average. They are finding out that the tuition coming in is meeting their expectations, even though they are low on students. They are still having students coming in to talk to them. The reason for this increased average is that you don't have so many big families so fewer multi-student tuition breaks. There is a new school CPA and are also possibly hiring a bookkeeper so the that the CPA can do more for the school including financial planning and possible marketing. They are looking for someone less expensive to perform the date entry.

- Faith Formation: Len stated that Formation met last Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. The weekly Advent scripture reflections are being headed up by Carole Schmidt, Deacon Wilson and Peg Malmberg. The reflections by Carole begin on November 26<sup>th</sup>, with Wilson on November 28<sup>th</sup>, and with Peg on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Corinne is working on the Faith and Fellowship speakers for this semester. She has Amanda Binder scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup> speaking about stress. Faith and Fellowship is held every Sunday between the two Masses, from 9:00 – 10:30. February 17<sup>th</sup> is a Mass to celebrate married couples married in 2018 at 10:30. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, Corinne is working on teen mission trips, meeting with teen parents. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a talk on sex trafficking, held after the two Masses, at 9:00am and again at 11:45am. This is for both parents and junior high and high school students. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Christine Gabron will be speaking on estate planning. There are two open dates on the March 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> where there is currently nothing scheduled. On April 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a talk about the adult mission trip.

Upcoming speakers include Rich Harter, the Director of Evangelization with the archdiocese. He will be here on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. It is for all committee members and parish volunteers and will include lunch beginning at 12:00 noon in Bell Hall. Rich will present at 1:00pm in the church.

Musician and evangelist Paul J Kim will be performing at The Branch at 1501, an event venue/café in Racine on Feb 22nd. St. Mary, St. Peter, and St. Anne young adults will be there. He will also be at St. Mary on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> and they expect about 250 teens. Father Steve Avella, past associate priest at St. Mary and current professor at Marquette, will be giving a presentation during Lent on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30pm in the church. He is a historian and will speak about the Lenten journey. A question and answer period will follow with refreshments.

Corinne is looking into a Christmas gift to parishioners, either a plastic cross or a parish magnet. The magnet will include Mass times, web site information, phone number and email address.

The youth group middle-school formation classes are making memorial angels to be made available to all parishioners as they remember their deceased loved ones at Christmas. The angels will be displayed on the Christmas trees in the church. Formation committee members will make the angels available for a small donation after all the Masses on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting is Tuesday January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Stewardship: Frank has not been able to attend the most recent meetings. Ray is no longer part of the Stewardship committee. Peg M advised that Chris Beben has taken over the chair position of the Stewardship committee. She stated that Stewardship has hosted, along with the Knights of Columbus, the parish fall picnic. About 165 parishioners attended. The Stewardship committee used the new member listing to make personal phone calls to speak about and invite them to upcoming events, and to ask if there is anything that we can help them with.

The annual parish pledge was held the weekend of November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We had two different set of witness talks. Len did the 5:00 and 10:30, and Kristen and Ron Schaefer did the 8:00 Mass. Both talks were excellent and were really appreciated. We're still gathering pledge cards and don't have any numbers yet. There are still cards at the entryways for people to fill out and turn in. A new option for Parishioners to make contributions is WeShare, a link on our website, which allows them to control their donation to the parish.

Stewardship is hosting a new member Mass on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 Mass. We are calling new member families from the last 6 months. They are being invited to this Mass, to the Thanksgiving Day Mass, and to the St. Nick breakfast on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Since we are doing a much better job of getting the email addresses of new members, we are also going to try sending out an Evite invitation for them to RSVP to us. We will make a special badge or nametag to recognize those new members.

- Prayer and Worship: Steve said that the Thanksgiving Day Mass went well. We are having a Mass of Anticipation on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We will also have a Mass on Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am for the Immaculate Conception. The Masses that Saturday evening and Sunday morning will celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. Father Roman went over the general instructions for holy days of obligation. Amy noted that the guidelines are in the Parish Leader Update. Steve noted that our Christmas Masses will be 4:00pm and 6:00pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be a 10:30 choir concert before the 11:00 Mass in the evening on December 24<sup>th</sup>. On December 25<sup>th</sup> there will be 9:00 and 11:00 morning Masses. For the Solemnity of Mary, there will be a Mass of Anticipation on December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a 9:00am Mass, like what we have done in the past. Deacon Ron will be reaching out to new member families to invite them to light the Advent wreath. Their names will be posted in the bulletin. New Breaking Bread books are being swapped out for the old ones in church in preparation for new liturgical year.
- Synod meeting: Amy, Steve, and Danny Rodriguez from St. Mark attended. They discussed opportunities where the two parishes can communicate better. There was suggestion for shared information in the weekly bulletins. For instance, the mass schedule and upcoming events could be in both bulletins. There was also discussion of the two parish councils combining efforts.

#### **Parish Leader Update** (Archdiocese Newsletter)

- Deanery meeting: Amy and Dick attended. Held at St. Sebastian in Sturtevant with representatives from all the parishes in our Deanery. Amy

said that they talked about more things Archdiocesan-driven. The archdiocese is coming up with a plan for everyone regarding active shooter guidelines. Everyone shared one thing that was going on in their parish. They talked about the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary calendar, which Amy distributed to the Council, taking note about the events going on. There is a parish council congress on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This meeting is for the pastors, trustees and Pastoral/Finance council chairpersons. We are asked to evaluate the norms of parish council and for any changes necessary and changes for retreats. Suggestions are due by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Get your suggestions back to Amy. We had a lengthy discussion about catechists, how different parishes train catechists, how they are seen throughout the parish, and are they respected and shown honor. Dick stated that they want to do extra training for Eucharistic Ministers, including for the homebound, and how everyone needs to do it the same way.

- November Newsletter: Discussion of norms. Register for the parish council congress meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Four from St. Mary and four from St. Mark will attend. The multi-parish institute, Peggy C. and Amy agreed to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. March 29<sup>th</sup>, save-the-date, planning the future of Catholic schools.
- Building renovation update: Survey update: Both positive and negative comments noted. Next step is for discussion with both leadership committees.

Next meeting: TBA

Closing Prayer: Father Roman

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.