

Mary Mother of the Church

Parish Council Meeting Minutes June 23, 2020

In attendance: Fr. Jim Perkl, Gene Earhart, Sarah Dickhausen, Brittany Brown, Greg Mann, Nancy Arbogast, Jim Rice and Vivian Rogers

Meet was called to order at 6:38pm

Meeting minutes recorded by Sarah Dickhausen

Meeting was held through Web-ex

Meeting began with a sharing of small unexpected surprises discovered during this Covid-19 shut down-time period.

Father Jim lead the meeting in prayer with a Hail Mary

Vivian Rogers presented on the Results of Disciple Maker's Initiative

The Disciple Maker's Initiative was a survey that was given to our members that measured attitudes and beliefs of our community, satisfaction with our organization, demographics of participants, etc. This survey tells us what people are feeling about our parish for example – would they recommend our parish, have parishioner's shared a personal witness story etc. We had 379 total people complete the survey. They have had one webinar on how to use the information and they have other webinars schedule later in the year to cover additional information. The first question is what do we want to know from this information? And second, how does this survey relate to our ministry. For example, does it fit the "Live Jesus" Mission. The time table for completing the analysis of the information is sometime this Fall. Everyone is still learning how to access and interpret the information, so this report was just an overview of the process. The committee working on the project are the trustees, Vivian and Father Jim. The Archbishop recommended parish's to collect this information in preparation for the synod.

Father Jim presented an update on Pastoral Outreach during Covid-19

We are doing really well overall. There have been several challenges, though. We have an issue with elders who can't come to church, and how to run programs when not in person, etc. There have been challenges with parishioners concerned about social distancing and mask wearing. Staff members are handling this as best they can at this time.

. An update for each MAC area can be found below:

- 1) Worship – 9am Daily Mass, 4pm, 8:30am and 11am Mass are going strong and currently running around 2-hours of confession each week.

- 2) Discipleship: Steve Grass has taken leadership in this area. They have recently sent out a survey to families and are also following up with every family that have children in the home. They are also working on ways to keep improving Faith Formation registration
- 3) Pastoral Care: Working on a plan to reach the elderly members of our Parish and recognizing a need to recruit more people to ministry to replace members who aren't currently able to serve.

Ideas put forth by PPC:

- Engage people in their 20s to bring Eucharist to people 65 and older in our parish
- The Knights of Columbus made outreach calls to it's members during the shutdown
- Drive in Mass – this is not possible due to location so near the AM radio station

Father gave a Review of Pentecost Initiative:

By Divine Providence, the Feast of Pentecost has taken on particular meaning for Mary, Mother beginning unexpectedly in 2018.

2018 Pentecost: Our Daily Mass + Adoration Chapel was renovated and welcomed “Our Lady of the Smile.” This new statue of Mary arrived in time for Pentecost and the New Feast Day of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church the day following. This new Feast Day established by Pope Francis came to the Universal Church as a wonderful surprise of the Holy Spirit!

2019 Pentecost: Our new Crucifix was installed for the Feast of Pentecost. The Cross is the doorway through the Paschal Mystery that leads to New Life in the Spirit.

2020 Pentecost: The Holy Fiat + Family Icon welcomed to Mary, Mother of the Church. The new icon also witnessed the consecration of the United States to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church on May 1 (The Feast of St. Joseph the worker) by all the bishops of the United States of America and Canada.

2021 Pentecost: The Archbishop had chosen this year for the Archdiocesan Synod. With the Synod being moved to Pentecost of 2022, because of the pandemic, we will be able to take this extra year to celebrate the many gifts of our membership, so alive with the Spirit, and with Christ in his tabernacle and Word even more at the center of our parish and spiritual life.

2022 Pentecost: All parishes of the Archdiocese will be participating in our Archdiocesan Synod. The Synod will give direction to the Archbishop's pastoral planning with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Update on Evangelical Catholic

Gene checked the references of this organization and program and received the following responses:

Jessica from St. John the Baptist in New Brighton

- Using Reach More Online (most affordable) but would love to use the Reach More Onsite (most expensive)
 - This would accelerate the process of getting key people up to speed on how to make missionary disciples.
 - Have many tools and checklists with tools that have been priceless.
- Paradigm shift from education to encounter which then leads me to want to live as a disciple.
- Another paradigm shift: helping people recognize they need to be a disciple and share the gospel. Which is the call of the church. Mission isn't just for our Priests.

- Being trained on how to be missionary and then discover your apostolate. People encounter Jesus in the small group then they are invited into a 1-1 discipleship relationship.
- They are great at assesses progress. Monthly webinar for best practices for parish life.
- At minimum 15 hours per week for staff person and for volunteer.
- Pastoral care structure for our parish. Every new member can be connected to a small group.
- Jessica very enthused about EC and sees it engaging members of their parish and growing.
- 75-100 parishioners are being touched during this time through small group.
- Work with the pastor to structure the parish around discipleship and evangelization. Tool to replicate himself.
- All about relationships. We become friends first, then move to discipleship.

How has your parish changed?

- People are engaging in making disciples.
- People coming back to mass and confession.
- People praying with scripture.
- Have 24 leaders in a parish of 2300 households.
- Out of 160 got 120 involved in small groups.
- This equips the 4% to make disciples

Maria from Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Paul

- She started with EC in Feb of 2018. Used Reach More Onsite for 2 years and now use Reach More Campaign (2nd level of engagement)
- Experiencing greater engagement. People want to be involved.
- EC very supportive, great resources, and coaching.
- Allowed to customize to Hispanic population. Not a our way or highway approach by EC.
- We discussed the idea of using EC materials and training to increase youth engagement. That is working in their parish. Her comment: "They are hungry"

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Hastings, MN - ask for Jill

- Started in Sept of 2018 and used the Reach More Onsite process
- They have trained 30 leaders and 200 people have gotten involved in small groups. Some of which have continued during Covid.
- All different age groups have participated.
- Beginning to see the parish "turn over" getting to another level beyond the core that sign up for everything. (People who are recognized as leaders in the church)
- Ties into the Synod? Meaning it answers the call to go out.
- Very positive and well worth the investment and would do it again.
- Loved EC and felt like they really get it and provide great training, support and resources.
- One key is to make sure staff and parishioner volunteers are the "right people" have the time to devote to this.

Gene's thoughts

When asked what will EC do for us: EC will teach us to ID, train, engage a small number of leaders to ID, train, and engage parishioners to be missionary disciples. They do this through teaching, coaching, and providing ongoing support through their staff and on-line resources. We benefit from their expertise and experience. Put another way they don't just teach us how to fish they teach us how to teach others to become fishers of missionary disciples.

Thoughts from the PPC and MMOTC staff:

The question was raised of when we might possibly move forward and it was discussed that it might be a good idea to wait for a while, particularly during this time of Covid-19. We have several events happening over the next year that could help lead our Church in this decision process. At this time, Father feels like it would be best to wait for the Holy Spirit to lead us before a final decision is made.

Meeting concluded at 7:58pm