

## Stella Maris Pastoral Council Minutes from 9/17/19

Father Farrell commented that he is impressed with how well the parish works together. He has always felt very welcomed. He reminded us that everything we do is for God and that it is appreciated.

Sharon Brabson commented that our first goal as Pastoral Council members is communication, which is why we get together with commission heads. There are 4 commissions: Worship, Education, Living Justice, and Parish Life. Each commission has a liaison to the Pastoral Council to facilitate two-way communication.

The Parish Mission and Vision statements were reviewed. The Parish has committed to live according to 5 values. Unfortunately when the group was asked few members could name all five.

Representatives from the various commissions and committees were asked to share their answer to the following question: ***How does your committee/commission support our parish mission and values?***

Prayer Shawl – Dixie felt that the Prayer Shawl group reaches out to parish members and community members in need of support and love during times of physical, mental, or spiritual challenge.

CCW – Connie stated that the Confraternity of Christian Women is a way for parish women to stay connected with one another and to reach out to help.

CSR – Jan shared that CSR engages parishioners to reach out to others in need. They help each person to live as a disciple of Jesus. And they break the silence by witnessing to others about their faith.

Finance - Peg said that the Finance Council keeps faith involved in every decision they make.

Faith Formation – Linda shared that catechists break the silence each week as they work with our students. Faith Formation families have signed up to greet and welcome at weekend Masses. Some of the Faith Formation students had prayer partners during the past year.

Respect Life – Chris stated that the opening prayer for their meetings involves respect for all life. In the past, parishioners have been invited by the Respect Life committee to pray for unborn babies throughout the nine months of their development, then had a birthday party for them afterwards. They have worked to break the silence regarding older folks dealing with chronic illness or declining health, educating us on euthanasia versus death with dignity. They've collected baby diapers and items to help those in nursing homes. They try to share the joy of discipleship with those they meet.

Food Pantry – Wayne and Jan felt that those who volunteer for the parish 24/7 Food Pantry are trying to break the silence about hunger and need in Door County, offer

welcome and hospitality to the needy within our community by keeping the pantry shelves stocked as best as possible, pray for the hungry among us and provide Bibles for free, and share our joy in our faith by our service.

St. Vincent de Paul Society – Greg stated that members reach out to others through home visits. They are welcomed into people's homes and offer welcome and hospitality themselves by listening to the person's needs and responding. These volunteers create community with friends in need by listening, serving, and praying both before entering the home and with the friends they are trying to help.

Worship – Every meeting begins with Scripture and prayer, breaking open the Word. Mary said that they encourage members to share their joy in Christ both during the course of their ministries within the parish as well as in their everyday lives. In making decisions that affect the liturgies and prayer of the parish, they seek guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit. Members are not afraid to break the silence and share their faith with parish and community members.

Parish Book Club – Jerry shared that this is a very welcoming group. Recently, a Coptic Christian came to their meeting and shared their thoughts. They also regularly break the silence through discussions involving their faith and the books they are reading.

Pastoral Council – Paul felt that this group welcomes the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we work with the Spirit to redefine our parish mission. They are dedicated to using prayer and Scripture to help parishioners on their discipleship journey.

Creation Care – Wayne spoke about the special prayer and reading for St. Francis of Assisi feast day on October 4. The green purchase policy has been approved and in use by Stella Maris Parish. They were involved in trying to find the most "green" method to refinish our parish parking lots. This group is also involved in ecumenical endeavors regarding economic prosperity and the Door County Housing Trust.

Kevin Revolinski reminded all of us that communication is key within our parish. He offered help in publicizing good news and work being done by each committee through our parish website.

Sharon and Paul broke those present at the meeting into 4 small groups, one for each commission. We were tasked to discuss ideas for how we and parishioners can continue to live our parish values even better. Liaison reports will be shared at the next pastoral council meeting in October.

**NEXT PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15  
FROM 1:00 – 3:00 PM AT SISTER BAY**

Minutes submitted by Paul Liss and Mary Gomoll